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AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &C.

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Editorial.

THE CROP PROSPECTS.

If there is any one thing more than another that the people of New England find fault with, it is the weather, and if there is any season of the year when this fault finding is more general, it is in the spring of the year. We scoff about the piercing winds of March, and when April comes, no matter if it is the warmest April for twenty years, two persons out of every three will complain of the cold, and declare that when they were young the weather in the spring was much warmer; in fact, the general opinion will be that the prospect for good crops is very small. When May comes, every cool day raises a cry of dissatisfaction, if not alarm, and an easterly storm, or a slight frost, calls forth the most dismal predictions. Croakers are always predicting crop failures, on account of cold weather, until the second week in June, then they change front, and while wiping the dust and perspiration from their faces, declare that everything will dry up.

Such seems to be the nature of the average New Englander, he will not remember that it is the nature of the New England climate to have rain, sleet and snow, as well as cold winds in March and April, and sometimes even in May, and that May always has many days that are uncomfortably cold to those who spend most of their time in overheated rooms. Nor will he remember that, as a rule, slight frost may be expected until the last week in May, and that occasionally quite heavy frost visits us as late as the first of June. If people could be made to remember these things, they would not every year make the mistake of declaring that there never was so cold and backward a season as the present. The present spring may be said to be a wet one, but not a cold one, the average temperature being above, rather than below the general average of the last 20 years. The temperature has been unusually even, there having been very few hot days nor very few cold ones. This uniform temperature has been very beneficial to the growth of grass, and winter and spring grains, also to the trees, shrubs and vines. The continual gentle rains have filled the ground with moisture, and thus prepared it for the heat of the summer much better than it was prepared last year; and the winter has been much more favorable than the previous winter; not only have the winter grains and grass been carried through the winter remarkably well, but the trees, shrubs and vines are looking much better this year than last. Trees that were transplanted last autumn are looking much better than such trees usually look; and the wet weather of this spring has also made it a very favorable time for spring planting of trees and shrubs.

What the future may be is entirely unknown, but the outlook, May 15th, is in our opinion remarkably good. The apple crop looks promising, so does the pear crop, although the trees are not as full of blossom buds as usual, but on most of orchards there are enough to fill the trees with fruit, if they do not drop off. Strawberry plants look well. The grass crop, which is our principal crop, rarely ever looked better. The ground is so filled with water that most of the mowing fields will produce good crops, if we have occasional showers.

The ground as yet is a little cold and wet to plant corn, but there is plenty of time for it to heat up before it is too late to plant.

We have had several dry seasons, so many that the belief is getting to be very general that our seasons have changed, and that in future we may expect dry seasons. We are not of this number, but believe that dry and wet seasons have their courses, and also that they are necessary in the economy of nature; that to have all wet, or all dry seasons, or seasons when the moisture is just right, would fail to create that chemical action on the soil which aids so much in preparing material for plant growth.

Having had a course of dry seasons, it is fair to presume that we shall, in the near future, have a course of wet seasons, or at least seasons with more rain.

The past winter and spring has been a season of clouds, with rather more than the average rain fall; it is very rarely that we have had six months of so little sunshine. This has interfered very seriously with crops grown under glass, but fortunately being in the cold season, outdoor cultivated crops have not suffered, because what crops are hardy enough to endure the winter are but little affected by passing clouds. After such a season of protracted clouds, it is quite safe to predict that the next six months will give us more sunshine. At the present time there is no reason for the farmer to be depressed nor every reason to be encouraged; the land being well filled with water there will be but little danger of seeds failing to germinate as soon as the soil is warm enough; for this reason there will be no necessity for planting seeds of the less hardy plants until the last of the month, but in dry seasons it is often important to get seeds in early, especially small seeds, or the surface of the soil will get so dry that they will fail to grow.

Some of the best crops of corn we have ever seen grow, the seed was not planted until the last week in May, after a cold wet spring. The ground being wet, the hot June sun brought the plants up in a few days, and the favorable condition of the soil prepared the fertilizers applied, as rapidly as the plants could take them up; thus the growth was very rapid indeed.

On the whole we consider a wet April and May favorable to the growth of summer crops, providing June and July have the usual heat and sunshine. That the outlook for almost all crops is much better this year, than last, we have not a doubt; although the will never fail. This continual fault finding with the weather ought to stop, it certainly does no good, and much harm. Trying to persuade ourselves, and all we meet that the present is the worst season we ever had, and that it is no use to plant, is all wrong and unbecoming Christians.

FIELD NOTES.

Farm Implements.—The great change which has taken place within a few years in implements which are used in field work compels every farmer to expend considerable sums of money for new machines, or to permit his more enterprising neighbors to go ahead of him. The expense of a full set of improved machines is so great that small farmers hesitate to purchase a complete set, but try to get along with some of their old ones. The question as to how far it is best to go in discarding old and purchasing new tools, is one that each farmer must decide for himself; the size of his farm and the length of his purse should always be considered. Some of the most expensive machines that are used but a short time each year may be made to serve for a whole neighborhood, and may be purchased by one and let to the others; or there may be a joint ownership. This plan may apply to such machines as the mower, spreader, thresher or horse power.

Crows in the Cornfield.—Before the corn is well up it should be protected from the crows, for if they once get the taste of it, it will be very difficult to keep them out of the field. One of the best and cheapest protections that we have ever found is white lines run around the field and across every ten rods; the line should be tied to small poles set in the ground fifty feet apart. When the lines are all up, get some small pieces of waste tin from the tinshop that will cost nothing, and hang one on the line near each pole. This is a protection which we have never known to fail, even when the cornfield was within a short distance of a crow's nest, but the lines must be put up before the corn gets above ground.

Stirring the Soil.—Field crops, like garden crops, to do well must have the soil kept loose and light early in the season. As this can be done principally by horse labor, and done very rapidly if done at the proper season, the farmer has no good excuse for neglecting to keep his field crops well cultivated; in fact, when the weeds and grass are kept down by early cultivation, it requires less time to keep the field clean than if cultivation is neglected until the weeds get large; for then the hand hoe has to be frequently resorted to, or the weeds will get the advantage of the crop.

The Woodchuck.—In many localities unless a determined war is maintained against the woodchucks the clover fields will be trampled down and a considerable portion of the crop destroyed. There are several methods of clearing the farm of these enemies of the fields and gardens. One of the easiest ways is to put two ounces of powder into a small bag, then put one end of a fuse two feet long into the bag, so as to touch the powder, tie the top of the bag closely around the fuse, put the bag into the woodchuck's hole far enough so the fuse will just reach to the surface of the ground, then carefully stop up the hole with fine earth, pressing it together so as to leave no air spaces; when the fuse is lighted stand ready with a hoe to cover any place where the smoke may appear. This will usually kill the woodchuck, but not always; when it does not repeat the operation, or what is more certain but more work, heat a piece of iron an inch thick and three inches square, and when red hot put it well into the hole and drop on to it a piece of red brimstone twice as large as a walnut; immediately put a sod into the mouth of the hole, and at once cover with fine earth until no smoke is seen; this properly done is very sure death to the woodchuck. If one likes to trap them get several smart traps and set one to each hole, placing the trap well into the hole, and covering it over so as to shut out all of the light.

The woodchuck is a very cunning animal, but by persistent effort he can be out generalled by man. The farmer should make it his business every spring to clear his farm of these pests, which unlike almost all other wild animals, seem to have not a single good quality.

THE SWEET POTATO.

While the sweet potato furnishes a very acceptable food for the table, and while it can be grown with success in any garden which has a warm soil, comparatively few farmers or gardeners in this State grow enough for their own use. Like the tomato, the plants should be started in the hotbed. The potatoes should be put in the hotbed the latter part of April, so that the plants may get large enough to set as soon as the cold nights are over.

In selecting a piece of land for the sweet potato, it should not be forgotten that the plant requires a hot climate; so the warmest soil should be selected, and one too that is light and loose.

It is said by some that it wants a poor soil, but this is not our opinion. A light soil, made rich by planting and heavy manuring several years, will produce much better crops than if not thus made rich; in fact, the potatoes will not grow very large unless they have something to feed on. That the plants may have as much heat as possible, it is the practice of most of growers to set the plants on ridges or hills. This no doubt is best, especially in a wet season. In a very dry season the plants will sometimes suffer by the drouth, but as a rule the sweet potato grows best in hot dry weather, especially if the ground that is not covered with vines be kept well hoed. The danger of drouth is when the plants are first set; if it be dry at that time the plants should be well watered at the time of transplanting, and the soil between the plants kept light and loose just on the surface. In this way the plants may be kept in good condition, and will in a very short time become established, requiring but little more attention but to keep them well hoed until the vines cover the ground, then they will care for themselves until the frost comes, when the potatoes should be dug.

As the plants seem to have few enemies a few bushels of sweet potatoes can be grown in almost any garden with very little labor The plants can always be found in the market at the proper season, and can be bought at quite reasonable prices. Those who want but few plants, as a rule, will find it for their interest to buy them.

SEED CORN.

The drouth together with the early frost which we had last autumn, injured the crop of corn last year in many parts of New England and the northern part of the Western States. So much was it injured that a considerable portion of it is unfit for seed. Those who have never given the subject a thought, are not aware how important it is to have seed that is in the highest state of perfection; many have an idea that if seed will germinate, it is all that is required, but this is far from being true. A kernel of corn may have just life enough to grow, but not enough to send up a vigorous stalk. Farmers should always exercise the greatest care in the selection of seed, and especially should they do so this year. An ear of corn that has the least indication of unsoundness, should be at once rejected as unfit to plant. The right time to select corn for seed, is when the husks begin to change color; by going through the field at this stage of its growth, it is very easy to select the ripest as well as the best ears. That the ears may be known at husking time, a red string should be tied around each ear selected. If the work of selection be left until the corn is harvested it is very difficult to tell which ears ripened first, and so, as a rule, the largest ears are selected; but it is better to select the seed at husking time, than to leave it, as some do to be selected from the crib just before planting time; when selection is thus delayed it is impossible to make any progress in the improvement of seed, and it is very difficult to do so at husking time, but there is a better chance, because the size of the stalk and also the number of ears on a stalk, can be seen.

While some believe it to be best to select twin ears, others believe that one good sized ear on a small stalk, is better than two ears on a large stalk; but whatever number of ears there may be on a stalk, one thing seems to be very evident, which is, that in New England it is important to select the ripest ears, because our seasons are none too long for a crop of Indian corn to grow to full perfection.

A small cob is desirable because the corn will dry better, and a long ear is desirable, because it will yield more; to get these two qualities combined, and at the same time secure earliness, is the constant effort of progressive farmers.

That much progress has been made in the improvement of corn during the last twenty-five years, must be admitted by every one who has given the subject any attention; but that still further improvements may be made, there cannot be a doubt.

CARE OF LAWNS.

To ride through a village in the early spring, and carefully observe the manner which the grass plots around many houses are cared for, reminds one of a petted well fed child that has been suddenly turned out upon the world to care for itself. Few things are worse managed than the lawn, especially in preparing it for the winter. The lawn mower is run over it every week during the summer because it is found to secure a thicker growth of grass, and a more beautiful appearance, but very few stop to consider that this continual cropping ought to be stopped early enough to secure a good growth of grass before cold weather sets in, and thus leave something to cover the roots to protect them from the frosts and the cold blasts of winter; so they continue to cut the grass until freezing weather sets in and the grass stops growing, thus leaving the roots so exposed that many of them die before spring. Some persons, to afford some protection, cover the lawn in the autumn with a covering of fresh manure, and thus have a manure heap before their eyes and under their nose all winter, a nuisance which it is astonishing so many are willing to endure. The manure is often applied so fresh and in such large lumps that it often smothers the grass where it lays, scorching, if it does not kill it outright, so when it is raked off in the spring it is some time before the lawn looks as fresh and green as it ought to.

To carry a lawn through the winter well an effort should be made to have a good growth of grass when the winter sets in; to secure this, in most seasons the mower should not be run over the ground after the first of September.

Fresh manure should never be applied to the lawn except before it is seeded down. Commercial fertilizers are the best for many reasons; among them may be mentioned cleanliness and neatness in outward appearance, also freedom from all weed seeds, which is very important for a lawn. If barn manure must be applied it should be kept over one season and well rotted, so that when it is applied it shall be very fine and at once settle down to the roots of the grass, and out of the way of the lawn mower. The compost should be applied early in the spring as soon as the grass begins to grow.

☞ How to protect harness from rats is told by the Germantown Telegraph as follows: "Rats when they are hungry—which they always are—will eat harness. A correspondent informs us that if, after greasing the harness, it is dusted with cayenne pepper they will not disturb it. Another correspondent says that a coat of carbolic acid following the greasing is a sure protection. Either or both may be good for all we personally know; but we have a method that we never found to fail, to wit: Hang the harness carefully up, and high enough to be out of reach of this destructive rodent and off from anything that might offer assistance to get at the harness, and you need have no fear of injury from them."

SHEEP AND FOOD UTILISERS.

Sir J. B. Lawes says that of dry food eaten by sheep it has been found that these animals stored up in increased weight twelve per cent., while cattle only laid up in increased weight eight per cent.; or, in other words, eight and a half pounds of dry food increased the live weight of sheep as much as did twelve and a half pounds the live weight of cattle.—[Farm and Home.

☞ If you have a good idea, have learned a practice which you believe to be of value, give it to the world.

BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR, 1883.

BY HENRY NOBLE.

Official Report to the Mass. State Board of Agriculture.

After a ride of over one hundred and fifty miles, occupying the most of the night, I arrived at the city of Taunton and proceeded at once to the Fair Grounds of the Bristol County Society. After passing the spacious and artistic gateway and magnificent second growth grove of timber surrounding it, I found myself in the midst of an enclosure of some seventy acres, containing many large buildings as well as many of less size and expense, together with all the sheds, shelter and other appliances for the exhibition of a large amount of stock of all the different kinds, revealing to me something of the amount of work on hand.

Many of the articles for exhibition, as well as the stock, were on the ground, while others were still coming. Supposing that the first day was the stock day, and the only day in which I could have an opportunity to see them, I proceeded at once to that portion of the enclosure, and soon learned to my great satisfaction that this was only the first of three days in which the owners would be prepared to show and explain all the peculiar points of excellence. Accordingly after a very cursory and general view, I turned to the poultry department, but soon found that the pullets had only laid one of the three eggs they were expected to lay during the fair, and that chanticleer had two more mornings in which to prove that his was the most musical note of all in the whole department.

From this to me new departure in the arrangement of cattle shows, I came to the conclusion that before going any further in my official duties, I had better acquaint myself with the modus operandi of the whole thing; and while deliberating on this and how to do it, I came across the portly form and genial face of Bristol county delegate, who I soon found was a necessary and essential fixture to the whole exhibition. Having received from him the necessary information, and with him partook of the bountiful dinner prepared at the society's dining-hall, I proceeded to the work before me with about the following results:

Stock.

There was on the ground 173 head of cattle, composed of 102 cows and heifers giving milk; 8 pairs of one and two-years steers, mostly grades; 13 bulls, all said to be thoroughbred; 8 fat oxen, one pair weighing 4250 pounds; 34 dry heifers and calves.

Swine.

Of swine there was a very commendable exhibit. The different varieties of breeds were all represented, showing the extremes as well as the more medium and useful. There were 75 in number on exhibition.

Poultry.

There were 143 coops of poultry, containing all the fancy as well as all the best known varieties of breeds of hens, geese, ducks and turkeys, making an exhibition of poultry equal to any State or county show it has ever been our pleasure to attend.

Sheep.

The exhibition of sheep was very small and entitled to no particular mention, except for its entire failure, there being only 22 in all.

Among the many large exhibitors of stock we would mention Mr. David Padleford of Taunton, having on the ground a large number of thoroughbred Shorthorns and Jerseys, all first class animals, as well as about 40 head of their grades, all worthy of particular mention. Mr. Padleford also exhibited on the grounds his method of sending his milk to market, having his cows, cans, coolers, wagon, etc., all there and in operation.

Cyrus Leonard, 2d, of Raynham Farm, was a large exhibitor of thoroughbred Devons and Ayrshires, showing that these well bred and cared for will take their place for merit alongside the more popular breeds of the day.

In this society, as in most of the eastern portion of the State, the Jersey largely prevails, there being 55 entries here in this class.

The Holsteins, deservedly popular in some portions of the State, do not seem to yet have found much favor here.

Mail.

Of the exhibition in the hall your delegate is inadequate to give any intelligent or correct report, and must content himself with a few observations and conclusions.

Vegetables.

Of garden vegetables there were 3 tables 80 feet long and 2, 40 feet long, well filled with many kinds and varieties, showing in some cases the effects of the extreme drouth of the season, but manifesting great interest in this department of agricultural products.

Fruit.

Two tables 80 feet long were well loaded with fruit, that for the season was all that could be expected from any locality in the State.

Manufactures, Etc.

The balance of the spacious hall, comprising the second and third floors, 100 feet by 150, was well filled and tastefully arranged with domestic manufactures, fine arts, floral exhibits, etc.

Agricultural Implements.

In agricultural implements the exhibition was not in proportion, though very commendable, to the other departments.

Horses.

In working horses, family horses, breeding horses and colts, many fine specimens were entered for the prizes, most of them showing high blood and good care. For these the society appropriated $213.00.

Track.

On these grounds is a half mile track in the best of condition, surrounded with the best buildings and railing to be found in the State.

On each of the three days a programme was made, and trots and races of each day were given. And yet I find that the whole amount paid or appropriated by the society for this purpose, exclusive of entrance fee, was only $977.20.

Amusements.

Of the 20,000 or more people on the ground the second and third day, a large proportion we have reason to conclude, are not particularly interested in either of the above divisions. To this class the officers of this society have not failed to provide both room and protection, and while we would not wish to sanction all the different varieties, we find at this and many other like gatherings, we gladly record the fact that in no case did we see or hear of any disturbance or disorderly outbreak, and during the three days we saw no signs of intoxicating liquors being sold on the grounds. I saw only two policemen on the grounds, and the only employment they seemed to have was looking for a job.

Finance.

The society have in real estate 70 acres, land valued at $15,000; buildings, $31,050; personal, $744; total, $46,794. Receipts for 1883, $10,353.60; expenses, $9,544.59; balance, $849.01. Paid in premiums, $3,836.25; amount of debt, $14,000.

Two features of this society's regulations might well be considered by many of the larger societies of the State. 1st. The stock as well as all animals and articles are required to remain during the fair. 2d. A tenement house is erected on the grounds, and a man employed to take care of the same.

In conclusion, if any member of the Board wants two hard days' work, and see a large show in all its aspects, and receive the hospitality and kind attentions of a board of officers then get an assignment to the Bristol County Agricultural Society.

The Poultry Interest.

ROUP.

The Country Gentleman says: "There are two phases of roup known to the poultry-keeper—the acute and chronic—both of which, if not taken in hand, prove fatal. The acute is produced by sudden changes of the weather, especially when the change is accompanied by high winds, during the six months from October to April. In the earlier portions of this season it is produced by drafts; later by wet and a sudden cold gathered from the damp chilliness of early spring. The first indication of the ravages is a hoarse rattle in the throat accompanying every breath. These cases should be taken in hand immediately, and delay is dangerous. Catch the fowl and turn two table spoonfuls of castor oil down the throat, which will generally act like a charm, giving almost instant relief. Another form in which it makes appearance in the acute form is indicated by the bright pink of the comb and face, which is often swollen, with either one or both eyes closed, and a yellowish gummy substance exudes from the nostrils and mouth. Treat this case to a liberal dose of the oil also. Swab the eyes and mouth with tepid water, removing the bad humor, and wash the eyes and face with a solution of sugar of lead, being careful not to allow much of it to go down the throat. Place both cases in dry, warm quarters, and give soft feed until better or worse, which will be in a day or so, according to treatment and the diligence and experience of the keeper."

☞ It is no unusual thing to have fleas in a poultry-house. Ordinary dust will not provide against them; it must be wood ashes or very fine limestone gravel. Mix with it the flour of sulphur, and put it under a shed or in a corner of the poultry-house, where it can not be wetted. You will see your fowls burying themselves in it, rolling their wings and throwing the dust into their feathers. This is a cure. It is supposed that the exertion of moving over and among the particles of grit is no more comfortable to the parasites than used to be a pilgrimage to a distant shrine with half a pint of peas in the boots, and they give in. Thoroughly cleanse your house; then a white-wash it thoroughly.—[Poultry World.

☞ The hatching of duck's eggs under the duck or hen, is a matter governed by the kind of poultry one wishes to raise. If ducks, rather than chickens, are wanted, we should keep the former laying and set their eggs under hens. The hen, though a foster mother, is more careful of the young than their true mother; keeping them from the water, which they are inclined to visit too soon and too long, for if they become wet from protracted playing in the pond or stream, by unguarded exposure to rain, or by wandering into the dewy grass after food, many will die.—[Poultry World.

☞ Wet sloppy dough or meal is unfit to feed chicks of a tender age. It sours in their crops before beginning to digest, and often they are destroyed by this means. Their early food must be mostly dry for the first three or four weeks, especially, whenever they need drink, if shallow pans of milk or fresh water is left within their reach, they will avail themselves of the opportunity to take all they need.

☞ Fowls are very fond of milk, and thrive well upon it. Sour milk will bring better returns in eggs than in any other way it can be fed.

The Horse.

THE EVIL OF BEARING REINS.

[Farm and Home.]

There can be no doubt that many more carriage horses become heavers than those that are used for the saddle alone, and the explanation of this presents itself at once in the continual and painful pressure on the parts caused by reining in the carriage horse, and teaching him to bear himself well. I have seen the larynx and that portion of the windpipe immediately beneath it flattened, bent and twisted in a way which could not have been produced by disease, but by mechanical injury alone. The arched neck and elevated head of the carriage horse is an unnatural position, from which the animal is eager to be relieved. Horse-breakers and coachmen should be made to understand, if they persist in its use, that when the horse's head is first confined to the check reins, gentleness, care, and caution are necessary. Injury must be done if the throat is violently pressed upon, and especially when it is exposed to additional danger from the impatience of the animal, unused to control and pain. The head of the saddle-horse is gradually brought to its place by the hands of the trainer, who skilfully increases or decreases the pressure and plays with the mouth. But the poor carriage horse is confined by the check, which never slackens. From the constant position of his head, the larynx and the windpipe are materially injured, particularly if the head be not naturally well set on, or if the neck be thick or the jaws narrow.

SAVING HORSES FROM FIRE.—If the harness be thrown over a draught horse, or the saddle be placed on the back of a rider, he may be led out of a burning stable as easily as on ordinary occasions. Should there be time to substitute the bridle for the halter, the act of rescue will be more easy.—[Farm and Home.

FEEDING GRAIN.—It is a bad sign for a farmer when he feeds little or no grain except to his horses. It will pay to give some grain daily to sheep, to cows, and to hogs. If well managed, the poultry will usually pay better for the grain they consume than any other stock on the farm.

☞ The Canada thistle and no other infliction of the farm was ever got rid of by act of Assembly; but there is a plain, common-sense method by which the thistle is headed off, and that is by frequent cultivation of the soil, and there is no better crop for this than that of corn, and assisting this by resolutely digging it out with the fork as fast as it makes its appearance above ground. By digging out with the fork it can be taken out entirely, leaving no pieces behind; but if the spade is used and the plant cut each piece will sprout again. It will not be likely to disappear at the first attempt, but by replanting the land with corn and continuing to fight the pest with a fork as before it will eventually be headed off. If this thistle shows itself in the garden or lawn, cut it off close to the ground and fill the hollow of the of the remaining portion of the stem with salt, and it will soon give up the ghost.—[Germantown Telegraph.

☞ All manures deposited by nature are left on or near the surface. The whole tendency of manure is to go down into the soil rather than to rise from it. There is probably very little if any loss of nitrogen from evaporation of manure, unless it is put in piles so as to ferment. Rains and dews return to the soil as much ammonia in a year as is carried off in the atmosphere.

☞ William Saunders, the Superintendent of Grounds and Gardens, Agricultural Department, Washington, says that no part of a tree coated with lime wash has ever been affected with the blight.

Correspondence.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

"PROTECTIONIST PROMISES" TO THE FARMER.

How Have They Been Fulfilled?

To the Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In the decade immediately preceding the outbreak of the Civil War, when the duties on imported goods were comparatively low, the demand for a higher degree of protection was usually grounded on the plea of temporary necessity. The proposition of a high protective tariff as a permanent condition of American industry, had but few supporters then. But it was argued that our "infant industries" must be shielded from foreign competition, until they had got fairly rooted in the soil. It was not denied that protection would cost something, for the curious theory that a tax on commodities does not necessarily increase their cost, had not yet been enunciated. But we were asked to submit to a present loss, for the sake of a future gain. As you gladly contribute to the support of your son while he is learning a trade, by which he will be able to support himself, and probably acquire wealth, to the credit and advantage of the family, so ought the Nation to support its young industries while they are acquiring the skill and experience that will make them able to support themselves. The requisite skill and experience once acquired, the immense natural resources of the country would do the rest. Foreign competition would be met with confidence, and overcome with ease, and we would procure all kinds of goods of our own manufacture, on easier terms than formerly, when we procured them by importation.

But not only were we to be rendered independent of foreigners for our supply of manufactured goods. Our farmers were also to be relieved from all dependence on the foreign market for the sale of their produce, by the rapid increase of population in manufacturing towns and cities. We were to become a sort of cooperative or mutual benefit society, supplying all our own wants by our own labor, employed on our own natural resources, and consequently having little need to cultivate commercial relations with the rest of the world. Our political independence would thus be supplemented and reinforced by our industrial independence (so styled) and our patriotism and our prejudices were appealed to on behalf of the "National System."

This ideal of a great self-sufficing, industrial commonwealth, possessed considerable attraction for a certain order of minds. To the farmer the promise of a sufficient home market was particularly welcome. For he had suffered much by reason of the fluctuations and uncertainties of the foreign demand. Freights were much higher, both on land and water, than they are at the present time, and protectionists always told the farmer that the freights were all paid by him. So, when the slave-holders' rebellion furnished the coveted opportunity, we got enacted, with the immediate object of meeting the necessary war expenditure, what, in a few years had become in effect, the highest and most widely inclusive protective tariff of modern times.

That tariff remains substantially unchanged to day, and I think it is full time to inquire how far it has fulfilled the promises of the earlier protectionists. Has it made the farmer independent of foreign markets for the sale of his produce? Has it relieved him from what Congressman Kelley of Pennsylvania calls the "degradation" of raising food for the "pauper labor" of Europe? Has it lessened in any degree whatever, the influence of the foreign market on prices here? It is notorious that it has done none of these things. Whereas in 1860, only 8 per cent. of the wheat crop of the United States sought a foreign market, the proportion had risen to 14 per cent. in 1870 and to 36 per cent. in 1880. The anxiety manifested not long ago, in Congress and elsewhere, to prevent legislation in Europe, restricting the importation of American provisions and live stock proves how important the trade has become. The protectionists of thirty years ago, told us that the cotton crop should all be worked up in American factories and only the finished product be exported—but more than one half of our cotton still goes to supply the factories of Europe.

I am very far indeed from regarding the increasing export of agricultural products as a thing to be regretted. No one but a Pennsylvania protectionist will affirm that the exportation of American merchandise is prejudicial to the welfare of the American people. On the contrary, most men, and all political economists certainly, believe the export trade to be, in ordinary times, the best practical measure of a nation's prosperity. Even the protectionists of the present day, with curious inconsistency, point to our increased exportation as a beneficent result of protection, and a refutation of the charge that protection restricts trade. But the earlier protectionists were more logical, or more honest. They saw clearly enough that protection did restrict trade. They favored protection because it restricted trade. They also understood very well that a restricted trade meant an additional tax upon the farmer, and they promised him compensation in the form of a better market and higher prices for his produce. This promise, I repeat, has not been fulfilled. It was indeed, impossible that it could be fulfilled. But the fact that it was ever made, proves that the men who made it failed to foresee some of the most important consequences of their policy. One very important consequence of that policy is, that nearly the whole surplus industry of the country is forced into the agricultural department; I mean by surplus industry, that part which, after the wants of the home market are satisfied, is left free to produce commodities with which to purchase those numerous articles, the production of other countries and climates, that now rank among the ordinary necessaries of life. We want coffee and tea and sugar. We want many raw materials of manufacture not obtainable within our own territory. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, we want to participate in the results of special skill and special aptitudes, wherever they exist. And when we come to consider how we shall pay for those things which we require from other countries, we find that we have to depend almost entirely on agriculture. Our manufactures have been so effectually protected at home, that they are practically excluded from every other market. Foreign nations will not take our high priced cloth and iron, so we send our grain, our meat and our cotton to England, and with the bills of exchange (not the gold, very little gold is used in international trade) received in payment, we purchase tea in China, and coffee and sugar in Brazil, the Chinaman and Brazilian returning them to England, to pay for the manufactured goods they have purchased there. Thus, because of protection, is effected indirectly by means of three exchanges, what, under Free Trade might be effected directly by one exchange; and as another result of a policy designed for the especial benefit of American manufacturers, we find that a portion of our national grocery bill is practically paid in the manufactures of our principal rival.

Turning to the other branch of the subject—Do we find the farmer able to make his purchases on easier terms, and so to reap a more liberal return for his labor, and outlay because of protection? I think that the continued importation of many descriptions of goods in common use, proves that the price of similar goods of American manufacture has not been materially lowered by the tariff. It would be curious indeed if the payment of a tax on a commodity should tend to reduce the price of it, though protectionists frequently admit that it does so. It is undeniable that, though the money wages of our laborers is considerably higher than the money wages of the English laborer, the purchasing power of the Englishman's wages, dollar for dollar, is considerably higher than the purchasing power of the American's, so that the actual difference in the rate of wages between the two countries, is much less than the nominal difference. Our clothing, our cookery, our glass, sugar, hardware, &c. &c., all cost us more—some articles very much more—than they cost the Englishman or the Frenchman. And though we have the richest iron, coal, and copper mines in the world, few people pay so much for those commodities as we do. No! I do not think protection makes goods cheaper, or procurable with less labor.

It appears then that, while the principal burden of the tariff has been borne for all these years by the agricultural interest, the promised compensations have not been realised. But the people are beginning to understand how America has been enabled to produce so many enormously rich men in the last twenty years, and why American millionaires are able to surpass in splendor and expense, the richest aristocracies of Europe. It used to be our boast that we had no very rich men, and no very poor men among us. Now the richest private individuals in the world are American citizens, and the slums of our large cities are beginning to rival in squalor, anything the old world has to show in that line. This rapid increase of inequality is not a healthy, natural growth; it is in a great measure the forced product of a vicious system of legislating at the dictation, and for the benefit of, special classes and individuals. Let the farmers—the working men—the plain people, seriously consider these things, and they will be forced to the conclusion, that the growing demand for tariff and other reforms, is not an idle clamor, but a stern necessity, essential to our very existence as a free Democratic Republic.

R.

May 15, 1884.

The Dairy.

PERFECT BUTTER.

Mr. Robert Hall, an Ohio butter inspector, says that where butter is properly churned, both as to time and temperature, it becomes firm with very little working, and it is tenacious; but its most desirable state is waxy, when it is easily moulded into any shape, and may be drawn out a considerable length without breaking. It is then styled gilt-edge. It is only in this that butter possesses that rich nutty taste and smell, and shows up a rich golden yellow color which imparts so high a degree of pleasure in eating it, and which increases its value manifold. It is not always necessary, when it smells sweet, to taste butter in judging it. The smooth unctuous feel in rubbing a little between the finger and thumb expresses at once its rich quality; the nutty smell and rich aroma indicate a similar taste; and the bright, golden-glistening, cream-colored surface, shows its height of cleanliness. It may be necessary at times to use a tryer, or use it until you become an expert in testing by taste, smell, and rubbing.

☞ Says the Live Stock Journal; There is a limit to which milk may profitably be carried. If the secretion is crowded too hard the product becomes vitiated, more watery and decays sooner. Scattering globules of blood are of frequent occurrence in the larger yields of milk, and the larger the yield the more numerous they are apt to be. Occasionally, at the last end of the milking the blood will flow out nearly pure. When this extreme has been reached the secretion is too large, and it may be remedied by leaving back a part of the milk at each milking till the flow dries down to an amount the food and vigor of the cow can sustain.

☞ In answer to a question as to what is the best grain food for milch cows, Professor Arnold recommends four parts of bran, two parts of corn meal and one part of linseed meal, as having given him the best results in proportion to cost of any dry food that he had ever used.

☞ Every road not on a dead level has more or less debris which has a fertilizing value washed off

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1884.

☞ *Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.*

☞ Any member of the New England Agricultural Society who *failed to receive* a copy of last week's *Ploughman*, containing a phonographic report of Proceedings of the Meeting of Trustees and Executive Officers to arrange for the New England Fair of 1884 will please notify us by postal and a special copy will be forwarded.

A 'longshoreman's exchange and coffee house is to be established on Commercial street in this city.

A severe wind storm unroofed thirty houses, on Monday afternoon, inthe village of Tarleton, Ohio.

In the present superabundance of water, the city fountains disport themselves to the fullest possible limit of their capacity.

The rebels have been subjecting Suakim to bombardment, but were compelled to retire on the approach of British troops.

The national wool growers' association has been holding a mass meeting in Chicago this week, 134 delegates being in attendance.

THE SHORT PANIC.

It seems that the Treasury has its own views in relation to the recent panic in Wall street. It thinks that there is no occasion for any apprehension of any extended trouble among the national banks. It expects the continued occurrence of individual failures, resulting from causes similar to those which precipitated the panic in New York. But it regards the banks as in the main sound, well regulated, and able to meet their obligations. At the Treasury it is thought that the present depressed condition of affairs will continue until the overloaded market is freed from worthless stocks and the gamblers are driven into exile from their accustomed haunts. The Washington correspondent of the New York Sun remarks that one of the many causes which led to the crash of 1873 was the construction of railroads beyond the demand of the times. That error has been repeated now, and in consequence there has been forced upon the market a vast amount of bonds and stocks that are incapable of making returns to speculative investors.

But the conditions are allowed to be very different from what they were when Jay Cooke and Company led the way in a general break down, eleven years ago. The channels of trade, says the same writer, may be temporarily clogged by this sudden check, but the great business of the country is not seriously affected, nor are the common interests injured by the explosion in Wall street. All branches of business were depressed before Grant and Ward started the current derangement as a natural reaction from the over-trading and overbuilding of railroads and other excesses which the great prosperity resulting from short crops in Europe and large crops in the United States had caused. These periods of prosperity and adversity come and go with a sort of fixed regularity, but the time between them has become shortened. We travel at a more rapid pace now than formerly, when these epochs of panic were separated by about twenty years.

Recovery, however, is certain, and it cannot be very far distant. The country is in too sound and healthy a condition to be upset by a panic in Wall street that is the result only of speculative operations and general stock jobbing. If the features of the case are specially noted, it will be seen that the outside public is not concerned in this recent trouble, and that it involves, besides a certain class of innocent people whose money has been misappropriated, none but bankers and brokers who were eager to plunge into risks that are forbidden by every rule of right or safety. It is a fact that the crop prospects of the country are favorable to a degree which has not been surpassed in recent years. With an export trade that will dispose of the large surplus which we may count upon, trade and industry will be practically beyond the influence of panics in any quarter.

☞ *The Standard New Model Buckeye* is well styled the model of simplicity. The least skilled may operate it and keep it in order. None of the mowing machines are of lighter draught. It will stand the test of hard usage. It will take down any kind of grass that grows, heavy or light, dry or wet, and even lodged. It works evenly up hill and down, over hummocks and cradle holes, and in heavy bottoms, and everywhere keeps an even, level cut and leaves a short stubble. There is nothing about it to get out of order or to be left lying about the field. It is, in short, perfection itself in its line, and gives the farmer solid happiness in the contemplation of a day's work done.

TREE PLANTING DAYS.

In a number of Western and Northwestern States, a special day is set apart for the planting of trees by the people. Dr. Peaslee, superintendent of the public schools of Cincinnati, has issued a timely pamphlet, to which we have made previous reference in the *Ploughman*, whose purpose is to induce other States to adopt the Arbor Day planting system which prevails in Ohio, by showing the really valuable results which are sure to come from it. No nursery could be a better one for the rooting of a sentiment of this description than that furnished by the public schools. The young minds and hearts are the very ones in which to implant it and to look confidently for its growth and productiveness. No one would enjoy the recurring custom of planting on a fixed day with more eagerness than the older, and even the younger, pupils of our public schools, who would convert the customary dreariness of our country roads and open spaces into places of attraction in a very little time.

And what these young people planted they would be very sure to remember as the years went by, and therefore to care for and cherish. They would feel a personal interest in the welfare of the trees of their own planting, which would in a short time amount to an affection. The barrenness and baldness of our country towns would be converted into verdurous attractiveness and beauty. Our retired rural towns would almost magically change their expression, and hence their character, and become inviting places of residence instead of being avoided. The few rural improvement societies that are at work sufficiently show what are the possibilities resulting from such cooperation. Dr. Peaslee suggests that the planting of trees be accompanied with appropriate public exercises, which shall personally interest those participating, and which shall impart to the Arbor Day a character different from that of any other day of the year, to be looked forward to with fresh delight and remembered with increasing joy.

The poetry of the subject is well taken care of in his very welcome pamphlet, selections from a number of authors being given concerning the value of forests and woods, the influence exerted by trees on climate and the needed storage of water for subsequent distribution as needed, and the sentiments with which the companionship of trees and woods are clothed in all hearts that are susceptible of them. Of the perils that accumulate yearly from the removal of our forests it ought not to be necessary to say much more, in view of what has been said in recent years on the subject. They should by this time be familiar to all persons. We cordially endorse the simple project of interesting the children of our public schools in the system of annual planting, and would gladly welcome the addition of another holiday that contained such and so much rich promise within its brief limits.

THE CULTIVATION OF SORGHUM.

Almost thirty years ago the Agricultural Division of the Patent Office, since developed into the Department of Agriculture, introduced the sorghum plant into this country. The claim made for it was that it contained from 10 to 16 per cent. of sugar, and that it was capable of valuable results in respect to sugar, syrup, alcohol and forage. It was likewise claimed that it would grow anywhere in the United States where corn would thrive, being specially useful for forage purposes in the northern portion of the corn belt. Analyses of the ripe and unripe canes were made twenty-six years ago, besides of the canes of various degrees of ripeness, and high scientific authority pronounced for both the Chinese and African varieties that they would produce sugar of the cane type in abundance and perfection, "whenever the canes will ripen their seeds." The same authority sought to encourage farmers to continue the experiment with the new plant, for good crystalized sugar as well as for syrup. Unripe canes were pronounced incapable of yielding true cane sugar, while they could be profitably used in the production of molasses and alcohol.

The essential fact was established at the start, that sorghum contained a large ingredient of sugar, for the production of which complete ripeness is a necessary condition; likewise that grape sugar was in excess in the unripe cane. And it was made plain to the small farmer at the same time that it was impossible to make sugar without the aid of machinery such as is employed in a well-stocked sugar-house and refinery establishment. In order to produce sugar, the planting must be extensive. No crude appliances would answer the ends of superior machinery in the business. It is mainly from disregard of this important injunction that the making of sugar from sorghum has so far been no more successful. The same result came from the beet-sugar experiment in Maine, which at best was on a minute scale, with totally insufficient appliances, and on a basis of sanguine expectations. The repeated analyses of the sorghum cane by competent chemists, however, have only served to demonstrate anew in every instance the important fact of a satisfactory content of sugar in the ripened cane. For thirty years, as before stated, sugar has been made in a small experimental way from the cane; and syrup has been made with fair success where corn grows to ripeness, but has been uncared for as a special product north of the summer isothermal line passing through Philadelphia.

The census reports in relation to the growth of sorghum are peculiarly interesting. We run them through for the facts during the three last census decades. There were probably 8,000,000 gallons of syrup made from sorghum cane throughout the country in 1859. The following year showed a general enlargement of the area of planting. In 1870 there were probably 18,000,000 produced in the United States. In 1880 the census reports 28,444,202 gallons. In 1883 the product may have reached 30,000,000 gallons, though the summer temperature was a notoriously low one. The Ohio returns are more full and accurate than those of any other State. From 1862 to 1871, inclusive, the syrup made in that State was 25,404,557 gallons; the number of acres planted, 314,563; the yield per acre, 80.8 gallons; and the number of pounds of sugar made, 332,112. For the ten succeeding years, from 1872 to 1881, inclusive, there was a decline in both the area and the yield, with a great falling off in the sugar product. For instance: the number of gallons of syrup made was 9,612,904; the number of acres planted 128,759; the yield per acre 73.9; and the number of pounds of sugar made 197,008. This would seem to show that sorghum is falling into disrepute even in Ohio, where there was once so much enthusiasm over it, and that something more than syrup must come from it if it is to be cultivated as a staple crop.

Indiana produced 1,094,342 gallons of sorghum syrup in 1878; 1,588,232 gallons in 1879; 939,020 gallons in 1880; and 791,377 gallons in 1881. It shows the same tendency to decline between 1879 and 1882 as was shown in Ohio. Very little, if any, sugar is made. The same reduction in area is reported in Illinois that appears in Ohio and Indiana. The natural inference is that the extravagant expectations raised by an unwarranted enthusiasm over the production of sugar suffered from a collapse. The returns from Illinois from 1877 to 1882, inclusive, are 83,701 acres in cultivation, 5,620,935 gallons of syrup produced, and 67.1 gallons yield per acre. The statistics regularly show a decline in the syrup yield in the years that are unfavorable for corn. Minnesota makes a good exhibit, the increase in the cultivated area being pronounced and wonderful. The rapid increase of immigration in that quarter has much to do with it. For instance: the number of acres cultivated in sorghum, from 1870 to 1882, inclusive, was 38,543; the total yield of syrup 3,206,604 gallons; the yield per acre 83.2; and the number of pounds of sugar made 8 839. Many discouraging circumstances have attended the cultivation of the cane in that State. A costly sugar mill and refinery was erected by an enterprising citizen and capitalist at Faribault, but the farmers could not be induced to grow and deliver cane enough to keep the same fully employed during even the short season allowed for the manufacturing.

Unsuccessful as the making of sugar from sorghum has been, however, in Minnesota, a movement is begun for the extensive cultivation of sugar beets and the making of sugar from them, the machinery and apparatus being likewise adapted to the manufacture of sorghum sugar; and it is proposed to combine the two, using the factory during September for sorghum, and for beets after they are sufficiently ripe in October. Minnesota only illustrates the fact stated in the outset, namely, that the difficulty with the experiment so far is to be found in the insufficient supply of the raw material. It was disastrously felt in the beet sugar experiment, and will manifest itself no less in that of sorghum. The only way out of it is by the control of the cultivation of sorghum by those who would manufacture it in sugar. Kansas began the cultivation of sorghum in 1874, and from that year to 1883, inclusive, there were 366,877 acres under cultivation to it, yielding 31,500,000 gallons of syrup, at the rate of 85.9 gallons per acre, and 600,000 pounds of sorghum sugar. No less than 50,000 acres are devoted to the growth of sorghum, in the western portion of the State, for forage purposes, it being found to endure drouth better than corn. The sugar made was all made in 1883, when five million gallons of syrup were also made. Great preparations have been made for sugar production this year. There are from 2,000 to 2,500 factories of syrup, large and small, in the State, many of which will attempt the manufacture of sugar this year.

It is held by competent judges that the sorghum plant is a real acquisition to the agricultural resources of the country, and that it will take and keep its place among our permanent crops. The Department of Agriculture considers it as probably the most valuable of the list of plants which it has introduced into the country. The corn area increased in 1883 at least five times as much as the area of sorghum, and the increase in the latter must be very large before it occupies 1 per cent of the area of corn. In point of value, it is more than buckwheat, nearly as much as rye, and more than one third of the annual value of the barley crop. The present acreage is chiefly used for syrup, which is calculated to be worth altogether about 10 millions of dollars. For forage, its present value is estimated at about one and one half millions. The sugar product is as yet but a small item in the account. The entire value of the crop is set down at $13,000,000. On the success of the sugar making experiment its future will depend. The experience of Ohio sufficiently shows that. The cane and the beet now yield commercial sugar in almost equal quantities; the former is cultivated chiefly in tropical countries, and the latter in Europe, where root cultivation has its congenial home. The problem of the manufacture of sugar from sorghum cane is rightly pronounced a purely economic one, involving the cost of labor in growing and manufacturing. By the end of the century, with the increase in our population and the increased consumption of sugar, it is likely that, with prices advancing in obedience to the demand, we shall make all the sugar we use within our own borders, and that it will be made of cane, sorghum, and beets all together.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The resolution directing the committee on finance to investigate the causes of the recent failures of national banks in New York, was referred to that committee by the Senate, to consider and report. The discussion, in the same branch, of the bill for the creation of a bureau of labor statistics was continued. Senator Anthony of Rhode Island has, by advice of his physician, determined to resign his seat. The House passed a bill extending, until December 31, 1885, the duration of the court of commissioners of Alabama claims. A motion to suspend the rules and pass a bill admitting foreign works of art duty free was defeated by a vote of 179 to 52. The consular and diplomatic, army and District of Columbia appropriation bills were passed; and the legislative, judicial, and executive appropriation bill was reported. A resolution making the Senate bankruptcy bill a special order for the 10th of June failed of the necessary two thirds vote. The bill, however, showed the handsome majority of 44. Congressman Collins of Boston did himself great credit in its advocacy. The House non-concurred in the Senate amendments to the Indian appropriation bill. The Senate insisted but agreed to a committee of conference. The Utah bill in the Senate was allowed to go over temporarily. The question of the investigation of the causes of the recent failures of national banks was debated in the Senate with a good deal of earnestness and spirit. The Senate devoted nearly an entire session to considering the agricultural appropriation bill, without, however, reaching a vote upon it. It passed the bill extending to August, 1886, the time to begin laying the cable authorized by the act of August 8, 1882. The House refused to concur in the Senate amendments to the Dingley shipping bill. It afterwards considered the contested election case in the seventh Indiana district.

AT THE STATE HOUSE.

The adoption of the order for an investigation into the alleged bribery of members in the water gas measure was reconsidered in the Senate, and disposed of by taking its life. A bill was introduced into the Senate to take the confirming power from the common council in the governments of cities having over 75,000 inhabitants. The House recommitted the matter of weekly payments. It likewise received a reported bill to prevent the adulteration of vinegar. The bill offered for taking away the confirming power of the common council of cities, gives to the mayors of such cities the power to appoint all officers not elected by the people, subject to confirmation and removal only with the consent of the board of alderman. A similar bill has been passed in the New York legislature. The House received the civil service bill in a new draft. The Cape Cod canal bill was passed to be engrossed, without an amendment. A large favorable vote was given on the resolve in relation to Mr. George W. Cram. The bill to abolish the contract system of labor in the State Prison was given a place in the calendar, in the face of an adverse report. The water meter matter was referred to the next Legislature. The committee on the State House reported adversely to legislation to protect that building from the ravages of white ants. Also, adversely to the purchase of the portrait of Edward Everett now hanging in the Governor's room. A strong pressure is being brought to prevent an investigation into the voting and attempted bribery on the water gas bill. The Shanley resolve was refused a third reading in the Senate, by a vote of one majority. It likewise rejected the naturalization bill, and the bill in relation to the employment of minors. The House rejected the double taxation bill; also, the poll tax constitutional amendment. A bill was substituted, as a hostile committee report, which makes a distinction in the license laws in favor of the dealers in light wines and malt liquors. The bills regarding registration and elections were ordered to a third reading.

The State Civil Service Bill. — The amended bill, now before the Legislature, includes in its provisions nearly all the employes of the State Government and the City Governments of the Commonwealth. Among its enumerated provisions is one forbidding any councillor, senator, representative, alderman or councilman, or any officer or employe of either of said bodies, likewise any executive or judicial officer of the State, also any clerk or employe of any department or branch of the Government of the State, also any executive officer, clerk or employe of any department of any City Government, to directly or indirectly solicit or receive or be is any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving, any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political purpose whatever. Another provision forbids the payment by any city in the State of bills incurred by any officials thereof for wines, liquors, or cigars, or of any bill for refreshments furnished to any official thereof in an amount exceeding one dollar for each member of the government of said city who certifies to the correctness of the bill over his own signature. Still another provision prescribes a penalty of not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars for each offence, to any one who shall make an appointment to office or selects a person for employment contrary to the rule that shall be established and published; and a like penalty to every person who wilfully refuses or neglects otherwise to comply with or conform to the provisions of this act.

The Dairy Farmers of New York.—President Richardson, of the Farmers' Milk Company of New York, says that the New York market is demanding between 1,000 and 1,500 cans of milk less a day this year than it did last year. He said that the fight of the New York Milk Exchange against the farmers of Orange County is still going on, and that many dealers have thrown out Orange County dairies by the order of the Exchange, after they had been contracted for. The farmers he said, are now for the first time in the history of dairy farming in Orange County, thoroughly organized and determined to be their own masters. There is a decided change in the shipment of milk by the various railroads. There is a gain of 750 cans of new milk a day from the Ontario and Western Railroad. He says the Erie road los a valuable dairy business when the Midland road was extended to connect with the West Shore. The Farmers' Milk Company expect, as soon as they have all the necessary machinery in their Jersey City factory, to churn 1500 cans of cream into butter every month, or over 25,000 pounds. It will cost four cents to make a pound of butter. It is to be sold to the consumer direct. The product of the factory last month was not of a quality to be so disposed of, and was therefore disposed of through the commission houses.

READ AND RUN.

— A member of the Salem Salvation Army came across a newspaper reporter one day last week, and proceeded to pommel him in scientific fashion for taking undue liberties with his name in the columns of his paper.

— The shrinkage in the values of twenty two active stocks, during the panic of last week in Wall street, is estimated to have amounted to sixty millions of dollars. The losses are between the gamblers merely.

— Speaking of last week's wreck in Wall street, the Boston Transcript well says,—"All the banking and other concerns which have been lending their funds on credit to reap phenomenal gains by stock operations, may find it hard work to stand the pinch caused by their own illegitimate transactions. • • • The financial wrecks now turning up are so many beacons, warning prudent dealers of all kinds to avoid speculation and be content with the small gains that result from ordinary trade.

— It is now claimed for tobacco that it possesses great virtues as a curative for mankind for skin diseases, as well as for some disorders which are otherwise classified.

— The Transcript says with truth,—"The most important problems in housekeeping are lighting and heating, and when solved in a practical way, the gas company and the coal yard may be dispensed with, and to this end the inventive genius of the hour is directed. The telegraph and telephone are not the end of ingenuity and invention in this age.

— A bill was introduced into the United States Senate, last week, making it unlawful for the president, cashier, teller, or other chief executive of any national banking association, having a capital stock amounting to $200,000 or more, to deal, trade, or otherwise engage in speculations in stocks, bonds, or other securities, or in grain provisions, produce, or oil on margins, on his own individual account, or for his own personal profit, either directly or indirectly, or to have any partnership or other financial interest in the operations of any private banking or brokerage firm of business. The penalty for the violation of this law is imprisonment for not less than one year or more than five years, or a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars.

— Legislative absenteeism is much complained of at the present time.

— Emigration for Europe is now setting in on a large scale. The swarms of tourists will be very great for a number of weeks.

— The German Turners in St. Louis have organised a corps of athletes, who will form a pyramid before a burning building of any height and hand down the women and children safely.

— English farmers are taking to beet growing for sugar making.

— The loss by fire in the United States is 100 millions of dollars annually, which is about twice as much per inhabitant as the annual fire loss of Great Britain.

— The Harvard class races with boats took place on Charles River on Tuesday.

— The Boston Club defeated the Chicago Nine at base ball, on Tuesday, the score standing five to three.

— Osgood Bradley, the oldest car builder in the country, and Cyrus McCormick, the inventor of the harvesting machine which bears his name, have both died within the week.

— The Governor of New York has vetoed the Broadway Arcade Railroad bill.

— Referring to the presidential nomination, Hannibal Hamlin of Maine is cited as saying in reply to an inquiry on the subject,—"I would not take the second place on the ticket if it were tendered. No, I wouldn't be on either end of the ticket, I am entirely out of politics"

— There are current reports of further financial embarrassments in New York.

— A novel and picturesque exhibition was to be seen at the Boston docks on Tuesday. A considerable body of immigrant Italians, freshly arrived, were grouped about their luggage on Tremont street wall, opposite Temple Place. Their garments were of an indescribable variety, and the group formed a study for an artist. Some of the faces seemed to have escaped from the canvas of Salvator Rosa. They did not look at all like the men who carry hand organs. They possessed an unstudied grace of manner and movement that was very striking. They appeared cheerful and contented, all their worldly effects being carried in the bundles and bags over which they stood guard. Their destination was the West.

— The Methodist general conference in session at Philadelphia is to select three new bishops.

— The testimony in the Jeanette inquiry case has all been taken, and the arguments are on.

— Mr. James Russell Lowell said of the poet Wordsworth, that he was "a rare being, greatly and suddenly inspired."

Excursion of Farmers to the Agricultural College.—*The Essex Agricultural Society* intend an excursion, on Tuesday, the 27th inst., to the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, and to the Hoosac Tunnel, leaving the Fitchburg Depot in Boston at 8.30 A. M., on that day, and arriving at Amherst at 12.15 M. The fare from Boston to Amherst and return is $2,75; and the fare for the round trip from Boston to Amherst and North Adams, through the Hoosac Tunnel and return, is $4.50. Tickets will be good for four days. Carriages will be in readiness at Amherst to carry passengers to the College and elsewhere, at low rates. Dinner can be obtained at the Agricultural College. Hotel rates at Amherst and North Adams are from $1.50 to $2.50 per diem. Ladies and gentlemen who may desire to share in the pleasures and privileges of the excursion are cordially invited by the committee of arrangements to do so, all needful arrangements being promised to be made to insure their comfort and pleasure. The season is peculiarly favorable for such an excursion, and there is no doubt that the invitation will be widely accepted. An inspection of two State institutions like the College and the Tunnel in the course of a single excursion would seem to contain enough elements and items to make it one of the most attractive that could be presented of this character. A numerous party will no doubt leave the Fitchburg Depot next Tuesday.

— The Boston Fruit and Flower Mission reopened on Monday, at Warren street Chapel.

THE CORN CROP NEVER A TOTAL FAILURE.

A SUGGESTION AS TO GROWING IT.

For the general farmer, we believe that the best kind of land on which to grow corn is greensward, and it may be turned over just before applying the corn, thoroughly pulverising the surface to a depth of two or three inches with a wheel harrow. The Greensward not only furnishes considerable plant food, but serves to underdrain the crop, and if this land happens to be a moist piece, this is very important in an average year of rain. After the soil has been thoroughly pulverized, then a special Fertilizer like the Stockbridge Corn Manure should be applied. It is better to use Fertiliser than stable manure on greensward, for it is more easily worked in, and gives an earlier start of producing a crop, and the manure which is not used can be used for laying down grass land in the fall. The corn crop, in one way, is never a failure; it is partially grown, and if there is a failure it is by ways more or less fodder which in part pays for the labor and fertiliser. If the potato or squash crop fails, there is no fodder to make up for the loss.

In advocating his investigation resolution respecting the failures of certain national banks, in the United States Senate, Mr. Morgan asserted that the law against over certification of stocks was utterly disregarded. The newspapers of New York, on the passage of the law in July, 1882, merrily told Congress that the matter was beyond its control. The failure of the Marine Bank, he said, was owing to its connection with a firm of brokers. It had supported the firm in all the wild schemes in which a young speculator saw proper to engage. It was a spectacle, he said, that argued a painful condition of commercial honor in the city of New York.

"COULD NOT HAVE LIVED MANY DAYS.'

The following is from Hon. H. P. Vrooman, of the law firm of Vrooman & Carey, Topeka, Kansas, is of so direct and positive a character that it can hardly fail to banish skeptical doubt. Used in Compound Oxygen there resides a marvelous healing and restoring power.

"TOPEKA, KANSAS, June 27th, 1882.

"DR. STARKEY & PALEN: *Gentlemen:* In the interest of suffering humanity I send you for publication an account of the *almost miraculous cure* which your Compound Oxygen performed in the case of my wife. Her condition was a critical one. She had a complication of diseases, *Dyspepsia, Torpid Liver*, or Liver Complaint, as her physicians have always called it, and *general nervous prostration*. If you will refer to my description of her case you will see that she was suffering from severe attacks of colic and vomiting. These attacks first came once in two or three months, when she would vomit herself almost to death's door. Each time the attacks came at shorter intervals and were more severe, until she became so weak and exhausted that *we are sure she could not have lived many days longer. And not your Oxygen Treatment come just as it did and saved her*, for the colic and vomiting had become almost perpetual, *and her strength and life were nearly exhausted. We could see a change in her condition from the first inhalation*, for she never had so severe an attack of colic afterward and had more strength in each succeeding attack. She continued to gain steadily, and for the past four years has had no severe attacks. If she is threatened with one she takes a few inhalations and soon escapes any severe paroxysms. I think it but right that we should make known to others what Compound Oxygen has done for us, and therefore send this statement for publication.

"Very respectfully, H. P. VROOMAN."

Our "*Treatise on Compound Oxygen*," containing a history of the discovery and mode of action of this remarkable curative agent, and a large record of surprising cures in Consumption, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, Asthma, etc., and a wide range of chronic diseases, will be sent *free*. Address DRS. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard St., Philadelphia.

THE MAY EARTHQUAKE PERIOD.

To the Editor Massachusetts Ploughman.

The latter part of this current week, about the time your useful and popular sheet leaves the press, marks the advent of this month's Plutonic or Volcanic and Earthquake period, say from about the 23d, and including two or three days in June. I think we may in time find how to determine the latitude and longitude and also the hour of the most intense and critical concentration of the forces. But as the *local* strength or weakness of the earth's crust has, probably, much to do with the occurrence of a shock, a very comforting uncertainty might even then remain to mitigate needless anxiety. This time the forces are *direct* in the Northern hemisphere and indirect in the Southern. They are also severe. Yours truly, F. L. CAPEN.

Boston, Mass., May 20, 1884.

☞ *Profitable Poultry Keeping* is a new book, compiled and written by Stephen Reale, and edited with additions, by Mason C. Weld. It is well illustrated. The editor endorses it with the earnest remark that any old poultry keeper may study it with profit, and that it may be taken by any one as a safe guide, with the assurance that he will almost surely come out well with his poultry the first year. The editor also says that if farmers would properly fatten, pluck, dress and ship their poultry, somewhat after the system advised in this book, it would add immensely to the profits of poultry keeping and to the wealth of the country. Though the author refrains from advising the rearing of poultry on an extensive scale, yet the editor believes the book will be found replete with sound views and practical hints in regard to its successful accomplishment. Published, price $1.50, by George Routledge & Sons, 9 Lafayette Place, New York.

☞ *Health and Strength Papers for Girls*, and *Our Business Boys*, are two neat little brochures from the press of D. Lothrop & Co. The former is by Mary J. Safford, M. D., and Mary E. Allen. Dr. Safford being widely known as one of the faculty of Boston University, and a high authority in things appertaining to hygiene science. Miss Allen is superintendent of the Boston Ladies and Children's Gymnasium and thoroughly versed in the best methods of training the human body. *Our Business Boys* is written by Rev. T. E. Clarke, and is intended for those who contemplate a business career. Parents, as well as their boys, will obtain many timely and valuable suggestions from its attractive pages.

☞ While a permanent cure of Rheumatism and Neuralgia through the agency of ATHLOPHOROS must depend on its power to expel the poisonous and provoking acids from the system, it at the same time possesses wonderful potency in immediately alleviating the torture, invigorating muscular action, and limbering stiffened joints. Says Rev. A. S. Cooper, of Williston, Vt.: "Twelve hours' use of ATHLOPHOROS greatly removed pain from my system and rendered the muscles so supple that I could get up and down with ease."

— The scheme for a canal from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, which will convert the Iberian peninsula—Spain and Portugal—into an island, has been revived. A contract has been signed between the originators of the scheme and the contractors for the Suez Canal, for a canal capable of taking the largest vessels through.

INFURE BLOOD.—In morbid conditions of the blood are developed; such as salt rheum, ringworm, boils, carbuncles, sores, ulcers and pimples. In this condition of the blood try the VEGETINE, and cure these affections. As a blood purifier it has no equal. Its effects are wonderful.

— There is a plan on foot to defeat the franchise bill of Mr. Gladstone in the British House of Lords, and thus compel a dissolution of the Commons and the holding of a general election before harvest.

☞ Does your heart ever seem to stop and you feel a death-like sensation, do you have sharp pains in region of your heart—you have Heart Disease. Try Dr. Graves' Heart Regulator. $1 per bottle.

— The bottom dropped out of Wall street, last week, but the whole thing was but a break among the speculators and gamblers of that locality. The main cause of the trouble with the banks was the over certification of checks.

OFFICE-HOLDERS.

The office held by the Kinkeys is one of importance. They act as nature's sluice-way to carry off the extra liquids from the system and with those liquids impurities both of the blood and the stomach and those that are formed in the blood. Any clogging or inaction of these organs is therefore important. Kidney-Wort is Nature's efficient assistant in keeping the kidneys in good working order, strengthening them and inducing healthy action. If you would get well and keep well, take Kidney-Wort.

— A farewell meeting complimentary to several missionaries about to leave for their respective fields under the auspices of the A. B. C. F. M. was held in the Berkeley Congregational Church one afternoon last week.

☞ A high mandarin of China, in his letter of thanks to Dr. Ayer for having introduced Ayer's Pills into the Celestial Empire, called them "Sweet Cured Seeds"—a very appropriate name! They are sweet, they cure, and are, therefore, the most profitable "seeds" a sick man can invest in.

— The New England Telephone Company spent fifty thousand dollars for underground work in Boston, last year.

☞ FOR BRONCHIAL, ASTHMATIC, AND PULMONARY COMPLAINTS, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" manifest remarkable curative properties. *Sold only in boxes.*

— The baby show at Horticultural Hall has drawn immense crowds daily. A Chinese and a Japanese baby were among the exhibits.

EPILEPSY OF NINE YEARS.

"I thank the giver of all good gifts," writes A. N. Marshall, of Granby, Newton Co., Mo., "for giving me *Samaritan Nervine*. It cured my daughter's epileptic fits of nine years standing." Get at druggists. $1.50.

— The steamer Thetis, of the Greely relief expedition, sailed from St. John's on Monday last.

☞ Dr. Graves' Heart Regulator cures all forms of Heart Disease, nervousness and sleeplessness.

— The New York and New England Railroad Company will make some changes in the passenger time tables and passenger tariffs about the 1st of June. Thousand mile tickets will be sold at the rate of two cents a mile.

☞ DECORATIVE ART. Explicit directions for every use are given with the Diamond Dyes, for dyeing Mosses, Grasses, Eggs, Ivory, Hair, &c. 10c. Druggists keep them. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

MARRIAGES.

In Newburyport, May 7th, by Rev. Daniel F. Pike, Albert E. Sargent to Lucy A. Coggins, both of Newburyport.

In Foxboro', May 8th, by Rev. W. W. Woodbury, Charles B. Wilber of Boston to Ada M. Fisher of Foxboro'.

In Ipswich, May 3d, by Rev. Mr. Johnson, Mr. James F. Wallace to Mrs. Eliza Grant.

In Lynn, May 12th, Mr. Henry P. Allen to Miss Agnes A. Hart.

In Somerville, May 14th, by Rev. Dr. C. M. Smith, Arthur Gourdeau to Miss Mary Dube, both of Cambridge.

In Madison, N. H., May 14th, by the Rev. W. H. Trafton, Mr. John F. Chick to Miss Hattie E. Libby, both of Madison, N. H.

In Lincoln, May 11th, by Rev. H. J. Richardson, Horace G. Paine of Concord to Harriet L. Hutchinson of Boston.

In Newburyport, May 18th, by Rev. E. R. Thomas, Mr. James V. Felker to Miss Harriet C. Moulton.

DEATHS.

In Braintree, May 7th, Clara J., wife of William L. Holmes and daughter of Isaac W. and Margaret Orr of West Bingham, 28 years 7 days. Her remains were buried in the Fort Hill cemetery.

In Warrettsville, Ohio, May 9th, Solome Gilman, widow of Jonathan Strong, late of Acton, Mass., 71 years.

In Wayland, May 11th, Mrs. Sarah N. Thayer, 82 years 8 months.

In Marblehead, May 9th, Mary, widow of the late Capt. George Williams, 85 years 11 months.

In Newton Centre, May 8th, Mrs. Betsey Eldredge, 71 years 8 months.

In Belmont, May 7th, Elizabeth H. Wellington, 67 years 24 days.

In Newton, May 10th, Luther H. Dana, 32 years 7 months 12 days.

In Everett, May 9th, George R. Slader, in his 71st year.

In Charlestown District, May 10th, Nancy, widow of the late Isaac Pierce, 85 years 7 months.

In Winchester, May 10th, Frank E. West, 28 yrs.

In Cliftondale, May 12th, Charles Milton Bond, 86 years.

In Waltham, May 11th, Miss M. Jennie Graham, 41 years.

In Hopkinton, May 12th, Watson P. Stone, son of Mary A. and the late James F. Stone of Cambridge, 35 years.

In Salisbury, Mass., May 12th, Stephen Woodman, 72 years.

In Revere, May 12th, George H. Coolidge.

In Providence, R. I., May 11th, Alexander Farnum, in the 94th year of his age.

In Colorado, May 12th, George A. Wadley of Brookline, Mass., in his 60th year.

In Brookline, May 7th, Mrs. Mary L. Campbell, 76 years.

In Bunker Hill District, May 8th, Mrs. Sally Patee, 85 years 8 months 14 days.

In Lynn, May 6th, Edward H. Jackman, 29 years 8 months.

In Gloucester, May 8th, William Fuller Davis, 75 years.

In Warren, Mass., May 9th, William S. Gilbert.

In Brookline, May 11th, Elizabeth Rust Sears, daughter of Capt. W. B. Sears.

In Roxbury, May 8th, Solomon B. Cushing, 76 yrs.

In Needham, May 8th, Caroline E. Saville, widow of the late John Saville of Boston, 64 years 9 months 28 days.

In Lynn, May 7th, John Wesley Cushing, 45 years 9 months.

In Essex, May 6th, Mr. George Rose, 67 years 2 months 17 days.

In Roxbury, May 8th, Miss Myra Story, 79 yrs. 5 mos.

In Worcester, May 11th, Osgood Bradley, 54 yrs.

The late Cyrus A. McCormick of Chicago, left ten millions of dollars by will, devised in trust to his widow for five years. At the end of that time she is to receive one fifth of the whole estate, and his three sons and two daughters the remainder.

Recent experiments with locomotive engines drawing trains after them, between Philadelphia and Bound Brook, shows that slow speed shows a saving in the consumption of coal over express speed amounting to 34.2 per cent. while the consumption at high speed shows an increase over that at the low speed amounting to 52.1 per cent.

The fate of the Gladstone franchise bill is expected to be decided during the present week. There is no doubt, whatever that it will be thrown out by the House of Lords. The Tory party desires nothing so much as a dissolution of the government, and it appears to have the disposal of the matter in its own hands. The hope for the ministry is really a faint one.

A vigorous attempt is to be made next week in the House of Representatives to push through the river and harbor bill. It distributes $12,500,000 among 135 rivers, 104 harbors, 12 channels, 4 breakwaters, and 1 canal. It is stated that nine tenths of all the Representatives have appeared before the committee to urge appropriations for their respective districts.

☞ The Ivers & Pond Piano advertisement in another column, is attaining an enviable reputation wherever it is introduced. Seventy of these instruments have been purchased and are in constant use at the New England Conservatory of Music; this endorsement alone is sufficient testimony to its admirable qualities.

Domestic Markets.

BOSTON PRODUCE MARKET.

Wholesale Prices.

Beans.—Choice large hand-picked pea at $2 45@2 50 ₩ bush; choice New York small hand picked do at $2 60@2 70; common to good at $2 40@2 50; choice small hand-picked pea Vermont at $2 80@2 90; choice screened do at $2 40@2 60; hand-picked medium at $2 40@2 55, and choice screened do at $2 30@2 35; common do at $2 00@2 25; German medium beans at $2 15@2 25; do pea at $2 40@2 50; choice improved yellow eyes at $3 35@3 40; old-fashioned yellow eyes at $3 25@3 40. Canada peas at 80@90c for common roasting, and $1 00@1 10 for choice. Pea at $2 00@2 25 ₩ bbl; green peas at $1 30@1 40 ₩ bush for choice Western, and $1 10@1 20 for Northern.

Fruit.—No. 1 Baldwins at $5 00@5 50 ₩ bbl; Western at $4 50 ₩ bbl; russets at $4 50@5 00. Evaporated apples at 9@12c ₩ lb, and Northern and Eastern quartered and sliced at 8@9c ₩ lb. Messina oranges at $3 00@4 00; do lemons at $2 25@3 00; Palermo lemons at $1 50@3 00 ₩ box; Palermo oranges at $2 00@4 00; Aspinwall bananas at $3 00@4 00 for No. 1; $2 00@2 50 for No. 2; Jamaica at $1 75@2 00; Batacos at $1 25@1 37½.

Hay.—In fair demand, at previous prices. Choice prime hay at $17 00@18 00 ₩ ton; medium to good at $15 00@16 00; choice Eastern Massachusetts at $13 50@14 00; poor to damaged at $6 00@10 00, with Eastern swale at $9 00; rye straw, choice at $21 00@22 00; fair to good do at $17 00@18 00, with oat straw at $10 00@12 00.

Potatoes.—Have advanced under continued light receipts. Eastern rose at 42@45c ₩ bush; Houlton rose at 45@48c; Aroostook rose at 43@45c; New York rose at 45@45c; Vermont do at 42@45c; Burbanks at 45@48c; Merrimacs at 45@48c ₩ bush; Prolifics at 43@45c; Islands at 38@40c.

Seeds.—Clover, Northern at 10½@11c; Western at 10@10½c ₩ lb; Timothy, good to prime at $1 55@1 65; choice at $1 75; red-top Western at $2 10; New Jersey at $2

Vital Questions! !

most eminent physician
school, what is the best thing in the
ld, that is the best thing in the
quieting and allaying all irritation o
and curing all forms of nervous com
ving natural, childlike refreshing sleep

y will tellyou unhesitatingly
form of Hops!"

CHAPTER I.

or all of the most eminent physicians
is the best and only remedy that can
on to cure all diseases of the kidneys
ry organs; such as Bright's disease,
retention or inability to retain urine,
ne diseases and ailments peculiar to

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" Buchu."

same physicians
is the most reliable and surest cure for
isorders or dyspepsia; constipation, in-
Biliousness, malarial fever, ague, &c.,
ill tell you:
ke! or Dandelion!"
when these remedies are combined
e equally valuable
mpounded into Hop Bitters, such a
and mysterious curative power is de-
searching and thorough, yet mild, in their
purgative action. They do not gripe the
patient, and do not induce a costive re-
action, as is the effect of other cathartics.
Withal, they possess special properties,
diuretic, hepatic and tonic, of the highest
medicinal value and

Absolutely Cure

All diseases proceeding from disorder
of the digestive and assimilatory organs.
The prompt use of AYER'S PILLS to
correct the first indications of costive-
ness, averts the serious illnesses which
neglect of that condition would inevitably
induce. All irregularities in the action of
the bowels — looseness as well as consti-
pation — are beneficially controlled by
AYER'S PILLS, and for the stimulation
of digestive organs weakened by long-
continued dyspepsia, one or two of
AYER'S PILLS daily, after dinner, will do
more good than anything else.

Leading Physicians Concede

That AYER'S PILLS are the best of all
cathartic medicines, and many practition-
ers, of the highest standing, customarily
prescribe them.

AYER'S PILLS,
PREPARED BY
Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.
[Analytical Chemists]
For sale by all Druggists.

Twin Foes to Life

Are Indigestion and Constipation.
Their primary symptoms are among the
most distressing of minor human ailments,
and a host of diseases, speedily resultant
from them, mutually aggravate each other
and assail at once the whole machinery
of life. Nausea, Foul Breath, Sour
Stomach, Dizziness, Headaches,
Bilious Fever, Jaundice, Dyspepsia,
Kidney Diseases, Piles, Rheumatism,
Neuralgia, Dropsy, and various Skin
Disorders, are some of the symptoms
and maladies caused by derangement of
the stomach and bowels.

A Thorough Purgative

medicine is the first necessity for cure.
Then the cathartic effect must be main-
tained, in a mild degree, just sufficient
to prevent a recurrence of costiveness,
and at the same time the liver, kidneys
and stomach must be stimulated and
strengthened.

Ayer's Pills

Accomplish this restorative work better
than any other medicine. They are
searching and thorough, yet mild, in their
purgative action. They do not gripe the
patient, and do not induce a costive re-
action, as is the effect of other cathartics.
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[Analytical Chemists]
For sale by all Druggists.

RS & POND PIANOS
ON
Y PAYMENTS

Catalogues and Circulars fully describing
what we claim for them and the advantages
of Purchasing Pianos of Easy Pay-
ments, sent free.
We ship pianos to any part of New Eng-
land, allow in three years to come in exchange
any instrument before piano is declared to be
paid for, and if at any time within three years
the instrument is not found to be entirely
satisfactory, we will take it back, pay freight
both ways, and refund all money paid on it.
EASY PAYMENTS.
Tuners & Pond Pianos purchased
of us at New England Conservatory
are indorsed by the Eminent Dr. Tourjee,
Director. Salesroom, 178 TREMONT
CO., 207 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON.
my24-4t

ED RIVER VALLEY
DS
A FARM
$80 DOWN
$6 67 PER MONTH
IN SIX ANNUAL PAYMENTS
7% CENT INTEREST
160 ACRES
CIAL OFFER
ctual Settlers
FOR $3 PER ACRE
SALES WILL BE MADE IN LOTS NOT LESS THAN 160 ACRES NOR MORE THAN 320 ACRES.
THE TERMS ARE BETTER THAN CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT.
Map Mailed Free.
Illustrated Papers
other information regarding these lands.
J. B. POWER,
Land and Immigration Commissioner,
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Ry.
ST. PAUL, MINN.
my24-13t

E'S PYRAMIDAL STRAINER!
The most perfect Milk Strainer ever offered to Dairymen, Cheese Makers, Creameries and Families. Simple, Handy and reliable! Every Milk Strainer is guaranteed to do the finest strainingin the world. Send for circular. Price list free.
T & STODDARD MFG. CO., Poultney, Vt.
HOMPSON & CO., General Agents, 71 Boston, Mass. my24 6mow

HARNESS
RE WIND
NEW MANVEL
OLD RELIABLE STOVER.
We make both 12 years making Wind Mills with out trouble mechanics, unable to to take water from, well of spring and deliver it to any desired point. Write stating name of work, to
B. S. WILLIAMS & CO.,
anch Office, Rutland, Vt.
n, Beloit, Wis., BOSTON, Kalamazoo, Mich.
my24-26t

onwealth of Massachusetts.
ex, ss. Probate Court.
xt of Kin, Creditors, and all other persons
ed in the estate of WILLIAM B. REED,
Reading, in said county, deceased, intestate.
REAS, application has been made to said
rt to grant a letter of administration in
e of said deceased, to LUTHER REED, of
the county of Suffolk.
hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court,
be held at Cambridge, in said County of Mid-
in the second Tuesday of June next at nine
fore noon, to show cause, if any you have,
anting the same. And the said petitioner
directed to give public notice thereof, by
this Citation once a week, for three suc-
weeks, in the newspaper called the Massa-
Ploughman, printed at Boston, the last pub-
to be two days at least before said Court.
GEORGE M. BROOKS, Esquire, Judge
said Court, this nineteenth day of May, in the
housand eight hundred and eighty-four.
J. H. TYLER, Register.

"PRATT'S
AND CARBUNCLE SPECIFIC"
non salve. The most experienced Pharma-
have examined its formula, say it is supe-
rything in all their experience for BOILS,
ist equally so for CARBUNCLES.
box, postpaid by mail, if you cannot get
TALCOTT, PRIMLE & CO., Agents,
Conn. Sold by Druggists.
(4)

nds Gained in Three Weeks
AND
Cured of Consumption.
CRADDOCK, M.D.,
1634 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa.
men: Please send me twelve bottles of
AMOS' CARMINE BALSAM, one each of
Ointment, for a friend of mine who is
icted to live; and as your medicines
e of CONSUMPTION, and some three
o, I want him to try them. I gained
unds while taking the first three bottles.
ow it is just the thing for him.
Respectfully,
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medy speaks for itself. One bottle will
e most skeptical. There is not a single
of CONSUMPTION that it does not
at once, and it will break up a fresh
hours. $2.50 per pint bottle.
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ONSUMPTION!
Consumptive Pills are acknowledged
e cure for Consumption and Catarrh in
Physicians use them in their practice
Send for pamphlet of home cures of Phy-
ers, Doctors, Business Men, in fact, per-
living. Sold by Druggists.
Manufactured by
T. A. SLOCUM, M.C., 181 Pearl St., New York.
From a Minister.
Pembroke, Mass., Sept. 27, 1883.
e Bates' Consumption Pills a great
e Consumptive as I can truly testify.
Rev. CALEB TAYLOR.
North Weymouth, Mass., July 1, 1882.
had serious trouble with Catarrh in the
ad, and lungs for several years. The best
ent and lungs for consumption Pills are the
tes' Consumption Pills and would recommend them to all who
rh, Throat, or Lung trouble. D. D. Wilder,
Yours truly,
d Chorister, First Congregational Church.
Sold by Druggists.
Mailed, postpaid, by mail.
L46 per Box, 6 for $5.00 by Express.
JOSEPH L. BATES & CO.,
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Health and Happiness.
Hour? DO AS OTHERS HAVE DONE.
Are your Kidneys disordered?
"Kidney-Wort brought me from my grave, as it were, after I had been given up by 11 best doctors in Detroit." M. W. Deveraux, Mechanic, Ionia, Mich.
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"Kidney-Wort cured me from nervousness and weakness so bad, I was not expected to live." Mrs. M. M. B. Braddock, Ed. Christian Recorder, Cleveland, O.
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"Kidney-Wort cured me when my water was just like chalk and then like blood." Frank Wilson, Peabody, Mass.
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"Kidney-Wort cured me of chronic Liver Diseases after I was given up." Henry Ward, late Col. 69th Nat. Guard, N. Y.
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"Kidney-Wort cause easy evacuations and cured me after 16 years use of other medicines." Nelson Fairchild, St. Albans, Vt.
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"Kidney-Wort has done better than any other remedy I have ever used in my practice." Dr. R. K. Clark, South Hero, Vt.
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"Kidney-Wort has done me more good than any other remedy I have ever taken." Mrs. J. T. Galloway, Elk Flat, Oregon.
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"Kidney-Wort permanently cured me of bleeding piles. Dr. W. V. Kline recommended it to me." Geo. H. Horst, Cashier M. Bank, Myerstown, Pa.
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"Kidney-Wort cured me after I was helpless for six months by rheumatism and I had suffered thirty years." Eldridge Marston, West Bath, Maine.
Ladies, are you suffering?
"Kidney-Wort cured me of peculiar troubles of seven years standing. Many friends use and praise it." Mrs. H. Lemmon, Isle La Motte, Vt.
If you would Banish Disease
and gain Health, Take
KIDNEY-WORT
THE BLOOD CLEANSER.
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Smith's Tonic Syrup
FOR THE CURE OF
FEVER and AGUE
Or CHILLS and FEVER,
AND ALL MALARIAL DISEASES.
The proprietor of this celebrated medicine justly claims for it a superiority over all remedies ever offered to the public for the SAFE, CERTAIN, SPEEDY and PERMANENT cure of Ague and Fever, or Chills and Fever, whether of short or long standing. He refers to the entire Western and Southern country to bear him testimony to the truth of the assertion that in no case whatever will it fail to cure if the directions are strictly followed and carried out. In a great many cases a single dose has been sufficient for a cure, and whole families have been cured by a single bottle, with a perfect restoration of the general health. It is, however, prudent, and in every case more certain to cure, if its use is continued in smaller doses for a week or two after the disease has been checked, more especially in difficult and long-standing cases. Usually this medicine will not require any aid to keep the bowels in good order. Should the patient, however, require a cathartic medicine, after having taken three or four doses of the Tonic, a single dose of BULL'S VEGETABLE FAMILY PILLS will be sufficient.
BULL'S SARSAPARILLA is the old and reliable remedy for impurities of the blood and Scrofulous affections—the King of Blood Purifiers.
DR. JOHN BULL'S VEGETABLE WORM DESTROYER is prepared in the form of candy drops, attractive to the sight and pleasant to the taste.
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SMITH'S TONIC SYRUP,
BULL'S SARSAPARILLA,
BULL'S WORM DESTROYER,
The Popular Remedies of the Day.
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Vanilla Chocolate,
Like all our chocolates, is prepared with the greatest care, and consists of a superior quality of cocoa and sugar, flavored with pure vanilla bean. Served as a drink or eaten dry as confectionery, it is a delicious article, and is highly recommended by tourists.
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POTATO BUG EXTERMINATOR
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SAVES TIME, LABOR, and MATERIAL.
The detestible Potato Bug is DESTROYS Safely, Quickly, Effectually.
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quickly cured by the CIVALE REMEDY. Adapted to all constitutions. Prompt return of VIGOR. Civale Remedial Agency, 160 Fulton St., New York.
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READ AND RUN.

— It is the judgment of capable men who are conversant with the facts that the recent excitement in stocks was the legitimate result of the events covering two years or more, of which dealers have long been cognizant, and which the public has had reason, during this year at least, to suspect.

— The Mexican chamber of deputies has authorized the President to contract a $3,000,000 loan.

— Three cotton mills were destroyed by fire in Liverpool, England, last Saturday, the loss being half a million dollars.

— The Czarewitch of Russia reached his majority last Sunday, and the event was appropriately celebrated at St. Petersburg, imposing court and State ceremonies occurring.

— Senator Anthony of Rhode Island has decided to resign his seat in the Senate, in consequence of his continued ill health.

— The Treasurer of the United States has forwarded $9,000,000 in legal tenders to the assistant treasurer in New York for use in case of necessity.

— A two thirds vote of the national House of Representatives is necessary to support the motion for a consideration of the bankruptcy bill, and if it fails, as it is expected it may, there will be no bankruptcy legislation at the present session.

— The internal revenue whiskey tax is said to be for Kentucky substantially a high domestic tariff, prohibitory in its effects, operating to keep "small men" out of the business.

— There was a large gathering of Western Unitarians in Chicago last week.

— William H. Mumler, the inventor of what is known as the Mumler process in photography, died in this city last week.

— The Boston Advertiser remarks that "the collapse in Wall Street interferes almost directly with mercantile affairs, because it makes banks very cautious in advancing money on merchandise and for ordinary trading purposes."

— There is said to be not more than a week's work remaining for the Legislature to do. Therefore the legislators are asked to finish it up and go home. A contemporary observes—"We bade them welcome when their orchards were white with snow; we would say farewell before they cease to be white with blossoms."

— The total permanent railroad investments and assets of the United States amount to $5,658,914,158. Of this the aggregate funded debt is $2,390,915,401. The number of persons owning an interest in our railroads is 300,000.

— Commenting on the recent financial break in Wall Street, the Financial Chronicle says—"The general public is not the cause, and need not be involved. It is a case simply of deep distrust, anything which will help to reassure the public in our financial stability would be of great service. Time will heal some of the wounds, but Congress could do more at this moment by the repeal of the silver ecinage law for the permanent restoration of confidence than all things else that could be done. Of course we know well enough that that law is in no degree the immediate cause of the panic, but it is a source of deep disquietude, and if it were out of the way conservative classes would be reassured, and foreign capital would flow in here like a river, to take all good securities now being sacrificed."

— The preparations for the Khartoum expedition for General Gordon's relief include equipments for 12,000 men, 40 steam launches, 400 shallow draught boats, and several thousand camels. It is doubtful whether the expedition will be ready to start before the end of August.

— The final negotiations in regard to the Egyptian conference have been concluded. France and Italy persistently insist upon their right to discuss the general question of the administration of Egypt.

— The prospect for a large crop of winter wheat is pronounced excellent. The May average is 94 per cent. of the standard of full condition, against 83¼ per cent. in 1883. This indicates an increase in the crop of from 291 million to 350 million bushels.

— It is semi-officially denied that the government will dissolve Parliament in case the lords reject the franchise bill, but it is asserted that in that case the cabinet will call an autumn session of Parliament, again pass the bill through the House of Commons, and so force its reconsideration upon the House of Lords.

— Four British steamers arrived at this port on Sunday, and one on Saturday.

— The mother of the late Bishop Gilbert Haven died in Malden on Saturday last, at the great age of 96 years.

— Millmore's bust of the late Wendell Phillips, just completed, it is understood will be sent by the city authorities of Boston to George William Curtis as a mark of appreciation of his eulogy.

— The Concord School of Philosophy will open its doors for the sixth annual season next July.

— The show of Ferdinand Ward, of the New York brokers' firm of Grant and Ward, is said to far surpass any of the entertainments projected by the late lamented Artemus Ward.

— Two groups of Proctor holders of Cape Canal shares are having a lively contest over the question of English shipowners and English directors.

— By the passage of the Alaska bill a local court is set up in that territory.

— American securities are at present in a depressed condition in the London market.

— The debate in the British House of Commons on the resolution censuring the Government for its conduct of affairs in the Soudan, was a very acrimonious and exciting one, Mr. Gladstone's defensive speech being the special feature of the time.

— Aguero and his followers continue to hold their own in Cuba, and it is said the Cuban government would be willing to pay this leader of the filibusters a handsome sum of money if he would return quietly to the United States and there remain.

— The German Reichstag has adopted the anti-socialist law.

— A number more of the survivors of the wrecked steamer State of Florida have arrived at Quebec.

— The City of New York is likely to lose a million dollars by the failure of the Marine Bank.

— James Stephens, of Fenian fame, has issued a circular, in which he places himself at the head of the Irish Nationalists in America.

— Marshal MacMahon lives in a very unpretentious way in Paris.

— The Moravians have recently celebrated their 427th anniversary. They claim to be the oldest Protestant sect in Christendom.

— Bass, the famous English brewer, who recently died at the age of 85 years, had a brewery which covered 200 acres of ground and employed 3000 persons. He was the graodson of the founder of the brewery.

— Naples has recently been described in the British Medical Journal as the dirtiest, raggedest and most squalid city in Europe, and one whose tax paying population is but 50,000 persons, out of a total of 500,000. Macaroni is fast losing its predominance as food there, being tough, tasteless, and made in a foul atmosphere.

— A recent visitor writes that there is infinitely more suffering down the Mississippi than is dreamed of by the prosperous people at the North. There are fully 20,000 persons between Natches and Vicksburg who are destitute, and, what is worst of all, have no hopes of raising a decent crop before next year.

— Mr. Ruskin writes that "progressive England, achieving her final purpose, may one day be blessed, as eye has not seen, in her life of the forge and factory, varied only by excursions from one coal hole to another."

— Telegrams from Germany announce the discovery of enormous oil wells close to the Baltic Sea.

— Speculating in securities proves to be only speculating in insecurities, after all.

— Mrs. Langtry was in a New York court for three hours, one day last week, and won her case with the jury.

— The late floods in Ohio river did a good job at cleaning the unwholesome districts in Cincinnati, in consequence of which the health record of the city is said to have undergone a marked improvement.

— Extract of lily of the valley is said to have been a highly esteemed remedy in heart disease in Germany, prior to the year 1821.

— Ladies handkerchiefs, this season, in Paris match the gown. A rosebud border for the handkerchief should accompany a gown made of a material with a design of rosebuds.

— Fifty miles have been covered in England on a tricycle in 3 hours and 37 minutes.

— The New York bar will meet to honor the memory of the late Charles O'Connor.

— The Channel Tunnel bill has been defeated in the British parliament by a decisive majority.

— The New York Sun, in speaking of the boxing art and prize-fighting, describes the champion Sullivan in this way:—"The 200 pound class of boxers is represented by John L. Sullivan, and the world never saw, and very likely may never see again, such a fighter as he. Mr. Sullivan, with his heavy form, possesses youth, strength, style, and spirit, each in perfection, and when he fights he hits first, last, and all the time until there is no body in front of him to hit at."

— A direct road from London to Brighton especially for bicyclists, has been proposed.

— The German navy is steadily on the increase.

Better than Gold.

So easily is a cold taken that not infrequently one is at a loss to tell when or how it has originated, and is prone to expect it will go as lightly as it came. Per- HEALTH haps it may go easily, if helped a little; but every cold that comes is liable to stay. It may happen just at a IS time when, from other causes, the normal strength of resistance in the system has been lowered. A little inattention or delay may give it a dangerous BETTER hold. Let it once become firmly seated, and the work of dislodgment will be very difficult. The simple Coryza, or cold in the head, may THAN develop into a Catarrh, and is indeed exceedingly likely so to do. That such is the case is evidenced by the fact that seven persons out of every GOLD. nine, in the Atlantic and Middle States, have Catarrh in a severe form. Or, if it does not take that turn, the little cough that is at first but an annoyance, is almost certain to become dry, hard, racking and constantly recurrent, worrying in waking hours, banishing sleep, and momentarily weakening the patient. The larynx, vocal cords, and tonsils, become inflamed. The inflammation extends into the bronchial tubes. "Laryn- AYER'S gitis" and "Bronchitis" are the easiest words that the doctor, called in about that time, will use. The trouble goes on working down the CHERRY bronchial tubes to the lungs, ultimately threatening Pulmonary Consumption. Or, perhaps, the malady assumes the quickly PECTORAL fatal phase of Pneumonia. Just about as unwise a thing as an ordinarily sensible person can do, is to neglect a "little" PRESERVES cold or cough and PECTORAL give it a chance to develop in any of these ways. And when it comes to the treatment of children, as HEALTH. gleet is criminality. All the dangers to be feared from colds and coughs may be averted, in the very outset, by the administration of AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL, a medicine ineffably beneficent, which allays the coughing, soothes to refreshing rest, and brings back health.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral,

Is the only medicine that can be relied upon to break up a cold and cure a cough, and is invaluable in the treatment of all affections of the throat and lungs.

The following are samples of what people say who know it:

"Medical science has produced no other anodyne expectorant so good as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL. It is invaluable for diseases of the throat and lungs." —PROF. P. SWEITZER, (Maine Medical School) Brunswick, Me.

"I find nothing else so efficacious as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL in the treatment of Colds and Coughs, and have used it in Croup, Asthma, and incipient Consumption, with great success." —DR. J. H. WILSON, Centerville, Iowa.

"AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL affords more relief in cases of Whooping Cough than any other medicine."—DR. ARTHUR Y. COX, St. Louis, Mo.

"My wife, troubled with violent coughing, hard and dry, for 30 years, got so low I thought it would kill her. She took AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL, and is entirely cured.—G. M. CARR, French Camp, Miss.

"I have used AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL in my family for 20 years. It is a wonderful remedy for Throat and Lung Diseases."—L. GARRETT, Texana, Tex.

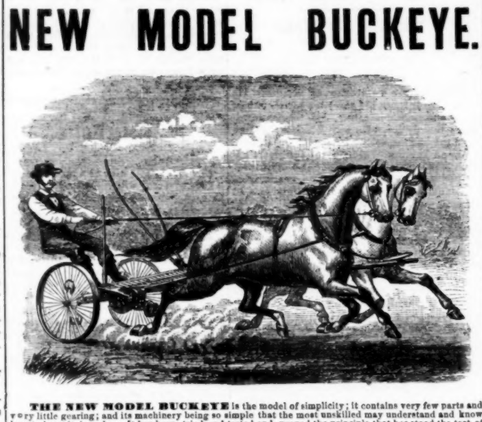
"Several members of my family suffered severely with Influenza. All were cured by AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL in a few days."—HENRY RUSSELL, Somerset, N. J.

"My children have taken AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL for Coughs and Croup, and have found it give immediate relief, followed by cure."—MRS. J. GREGG, Lowell, Mass.

"The best remedy that can be had for Coughs and Colds is AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL."—E. M. SARGENT, Lowell, Mass.

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL,
PREPARED BY
DR. J. C. AYER & CO., [Analytical Chemists] LOWELL, MASS.
For sale by all Druggists.

THE STANDARD
NEW MODEL BUCKEYE.



THE NEW MODEL BUCKEYE is the model of simplicity; it contains very few parts and very little gearing; and its machinery being so simple that the most unskilled may understand and know how to keep it in order. It has been tried and tested and proved the principle that has stood the test of time.

IT IS THE STRONGEST MACHINE IN USE,

built to stand the wear and tear of hard usage.
It is positively the lightest draught of all mowing machines.

IT WILL CUT ANY AND ALL GRASS THAT GROWS,

whether wet or dry, heavy or light, thick or thin, including lodged grass; makes even work up hill, down hill, and over hummocks and cradle holes, and in heavy bottoms.
In all situations and under all circumstances maintains its level cut, leaving a short even stubble in all parts of the field. No loose shackling swivels or superfluous levers constantly liable to get out of order. THE BUCKEYE is always in order, always ready for work, while its simplicity and fewness of parts make it cost much less for repairs than any other machine.

The Buckeye Mower

is one of the oldest machines in use, having stood the test for twenty-seven years. It has during this period outlived scores of machines that have tried to compete with it and has gained the acknowledged reputation

THE STANDARD.

The new patented improvements which protect the knives from all backward wear and maintains the cutters in position to insure the shear cut throughout the life of the machine, will appear in all New Mode Buckeyes this year.
We advise all who would secure a NEW MODEL BUCKEYE, to order early, as we have been unable to fill our orders for the past three seasons.
Send for descriptive circular. Manufactured by the

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IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINES,
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He has trotted a trial mile, with very little training, in 2:36, and a half mile in 1:14½.
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Dr. Ab. Meserole (late of London), who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any other living physician. His success has simply been astonishing; we have heard of cases of over 20 years' standing successfully cured by him. He has published a work on the disease, which he sends with a large bottle of his wonderful remedy, free to any sufferer who may send their express and P. O. address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Dr. Ab. MESEROLE, No. 23 John St., New York.
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OFFERED,
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AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS.
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Send for Circulars. Tiverton, R. I.
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A FATHER'S DESPAIR AND SELF-INFLICTED DEATH. HIS SON'S FINAL RESCUE. TOO LATE TO SAVE HIS PARENT.

The graphic occurrence that is described below is one of the most remarkable episodes in the domestic history of America. It is absolute truth which can readily be verified.

The inhabitants of the pleasant town of Cortland, N. Y., were shocked one morning by the announcement that Mr. Clinton Rindge, one of their most prominent citizens, had committed suicide. The news spread rapidly and aroused the entire neighborhood where Mr. Rindge was so well and favorably known. At first it seemed impossible that any one so quiet and domestic could do so rash a deed, and the inquiry was heard on every side as to the cause. The facts as developed on investigation proved to be as follows:

Mr. Rindge was domestic in his tastes and took the greatest enjoyment in the society of his children and pride in their development. And indeed he had good reason to be proud for they gave promise of long lives of success and useful ness. But an evil day came. His youngest son, William, began to show signs of an early decay. He felt unusually tired each day, and would sometimes sleep the entire afternoon if permitted to do so. His head pained him, not acutely, but with a dull, heavy feeling. There was a sinking sensation at the pit of his stomach. He lost all relish for food and much of his interest for things about him. He tried manfully to overcome these feelings, but they seemed stronger than his will. He began to lose flesh rapidly. The father became alarmed and consulted physicians as to the cause of his son's illness, but they were unable to explain. Finally severe sores broke out on his arms and he was taken to Buffalo where a painful operation was performed resulting in the loss of much blood but affording little relief. The young man returned home and a council of physicians was called. After an exhaustive examination they declared there was no hope of final recovery and that he must die within a very few days. To describe the agony which this announcement caused the father would be impossible. His mind failed to grasp its full meaning at first; then finally seemed to comprehend it, but the load was too great. In an agony of frenzy he seized a knife and took his own life, preferring death rather than to survive his idolized son. At that time William Rindge was too weak to know what was transpiring. His face had turned black, his breath ceased entirely at times, and his friends waited for his death believing that the bond Bright's disease of the kidneys, from which he was suffering, could not be removed. In this supreme moment William's sister came forward and declared she would make a final attempt to save her brother. The doctors interposed, assuring her it was useless and that she would only hasten the end by the means she proposed to employ. But she was firm, and putting all back, approached her brother's side and administered a remedy which she fortunately had on hand. Within an hour he seemed more easy, and before the day was over he showed signs of decided improvement. These favorable signs continued, and today William B. Rindge is well, having been virtually raised from the dead through the marvellous power of Warner's Safe Cure, as can be readily verified by any citizen of Cortland.

Any one who reflects upon the facts above described must have a feeling of sadness. The father, dead by his own hand, supposing his son's recovery to be impossible; the son restored to health to mourn the loss of his father and the agonized relatives with a memory of sadness to forever darken their lives. Had Clinton Rindge known that his son could recover he would today be alive and happy, but the facts which turned his brain and caused him to commit suicide were such as any one would accept as true.

However sad this case may be, the truth remains that thousands of people are at this moment in as great actual peril as William Rindge and in as great danger of causing misery if not death to their friends. Liver and kidney diseases are become the most common and most dangerous of any or all modern complaints. They are the most deceptive in their beginnings and horrible in their final stages. They are far more deceptive than Consumption, and can rarely be detected even by skilful physicians unless a microscopic analysis be resorted to, and few doctors understand how to do this. Their slightest approach, or possibility of approach should strike terror to the one who is threatened as well as to all his or her friends. These diseases have no distinct symptoms, but come in the form of lassitude, loss of appetite, aching muscles and joints, dull headaches, pains in the back, stomach and chest, sour stomach, recurring signs of cold, irregular pulsations of the heart, and frequent dizziness. If neglected, these symptoms are certain to ripen into chronic kidney and liver or Bright's disease, from which there is sure to be a great amount of agony and only one means of escape, which is by the use of Warner's Safe Cure. The importance of taking this great remedy upon the slightest appearance of any of the above symptoms cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of all readers who desire to escape death and pain and prolong life with all its pleasures and blessings.

Soluble Pacific Guano.
Annual Sales Over 50,000 Tons.

The Poet's Corner.

THE QUAKER BLACKSMITH.

A much-honored Quaker, a broad-shouldered smithy,
I've watched, many years, from my windows and yard;
And heard his blows ringing to words quaint and pithy,
But never a grumble, though times might be hard.

While others are sleeping, his forge-sparks are flying,
He talks to himself while his iron grows red,
And wonders that some folks are all the time sighing
O'er dolorous times and the high price of bread.

No horse is so vicious but he can subdue him,
His magnetic touches few beasts can resist;
With "Whoa, my good pony!" he'll fearlessly shoe him,
With never a blow from a cudgel or fist.

A faithful assistant through twenty long winters
Has kept at his post till the nine o'clock bell;
His dingy old shop, with its sides all in splinters,
Has long been his mint, though a tumble-down shell.

His wife, years ago, did the neighborhood sewing,
Made dresses, trimmed bonnets and caught the stray dimes;
Content if the pile in her cash-box was growing;
For thriftlessness stands, by her creed, among crimes.

Two sons and a daughter, John, James and Sophia,
Five years, more or less, have been woman and men;
You'd take either son for a priest or a friar,
Or book worm, just out from his attic or den.

The books they have read, with the contents well-treasured,
The poems they've made and the ballads they've sung,
It piled up together, could scarcely be measured,
Or titles be told by a street-vender's tongue.

Of London and Paris and other grand cities,
They've seen all the wonders and know them by heart,
And brought home their hist'ries and legends and ditties,
As well as improvement in manners and art.

But how will our Quaker dispose of these scholars,
Just home from Japan and the land of the Nile,
To get a return for the thousands of dollars
He's paid for diplomas, art-culture and style?

Of preachers and doctors he finds we've a plenty;
Professors have long been a drug in the mart;
Of lawyers and writers there's scarce one in twenty
Who owns a snug cottage, entire or in part.

Mechanics need vigor and well-hardened muscle;
And farming would starve such effeminate things;
In bus'ness they'd fall in the turmoil and bustle,
Poor pigmies, the victims of sharpers and rings.

And yet they must eat, and, while father has money,
They'll sit at his table, as worthless as dudes,
And live, like all drones, on the working bee's honey,
Unmindful of all the world's sorrows and feuds.

But little Sophia, as trim as a daisy,
With fair education and good Quaker sense,
O'er Primrose's novels has never gone crazy,
Or uttered one sentence of sham or pretence.

At home in the sick room, the parlor or kitchen,
The mother's best helper in all kinds of work;
Can bric-a-brac fashion of mosses and lichen,
Or revel in rugs like the most skilful Turk.

While many a maiden is sleeping, or dreaming
Of scores of young hearts she's intending to break,
Our maiden is busy in mixing and steaming,
Or baking nice biscuit and broiling the steak.

I know a young farmer who does day-time wooing,
Who hitches his team to the old Quaker's post,
Pretending that one of his horses needs shoeing,
But fits in and out of the house like a ghost.

His time is too precious to spend much in court-ing,
He owes on his farm half a thousand or more;
With little for pleasure, and nothing for sporting,
He'll soon lift the mortgage and pay ev'ry score.

—[E. W. Locke in Youth's Companion.

Ladies' Department.

IN SEARCH OF GOLD.

JOURNAL OF INCIDENTS ON LAND AND SEA.

To California and Return 35 Years Ago

BY JOHN FISK.

Compiled expressly for the Mass. Ploughman.

[Continued from last week.]

A Surprise—Jim and his Frying Pan—Arrive at the Humboldt—The "Diggers"—In search of the Cattle—Attacked by a Digger—The Apologetic Trail—Hard Travelling—The Boiling Spring—Rabbit Hole Spring"—The Salt Plain—"Black Rock boiling Springs"—Loss of Cattle—"Smoke Creek Canyon"—"Summer Valley"—The Sierra Nevada Mountains, &c., &c., &c.

CHAPTER IX.

Indians, if they make an attack, always do so just before day, when they think their enemies are asleep. At midnight the guard was relieved and double guard was set to look out for the morning hours, when we might expect an attack. As our guard could be trusted we turned in early and soon forgot, in sleep, the troubles of life. How long I had been asleep I cannot tell, but I was suddenly awakened by my hair being pulled; it was about to spring up with a yell, but Jim said, "be quiet and come with me." I knew something must be up, for Jim had his frying pan in his hand. He as well as any man I ever saw. When we were out on the tent Jim said, "I couldn't sleep a darn wink, and I have been out beyond the guard, and if them red varmint went skulking round out there, and getting ready to come down upon us, I will eat my head." The night was quite dark and I could see nothing, I told Jim; so he said he could hear them plain enough. I laid my ear to the ground and could hear a confusion of sounds, but could not distinguish any separate one. Said I, "Jim, let us creep out carefully and ascertain what is going on." We had crawled over some twenty rods when Jim's head came in sudden contact with an Indian, and to say they two were not surprised would be telling a whopper. I knew not what had happened un'il Jim sprang up and brought down his frying pan with a whack on the Indian's skull that sounded like striking on an empty barrel head. Several red skins now sprang up and I fired both barrels into them in quick succession, and then clubbed my gun and struck right and left, but the reds had fled. They had been taken by surprise themselves.

I find when thus taken their courage leaves them, and they think that is bad medicine, and away they go at the top of their speed. These belong to the Digger tribe, and they depend mostly on their numbers. My firing had brought out the guard and the whole camp, and when the statement had been made Jim was again the hero of the hour; his frying pan stood high among the implements of warfare. Dan said "You will consider this a compliment," and he picked Jim up and placed him on his shoulder and carried him to camp. Nothing more occurred that night.

In six days travel we came to the Humboldt; this stream is bordered most of the way by willows. Here the Diggers hide in the daytime and pounce upon any stragglers they find unprepared. The grass down this stream most of the way is pretty good; there seems to be a dry season here, as there has been no sign of rain for a long time; everything is parched except near the margin of the stream. Here we overtook a number of emigrants who had lost a number of their oxen; this obliged them to leave their wagons, and they were packing their cattle with their provisions. An ox looks very odd when his back is loaded in this way. How they were to cross the rivers I don't see, as part of the land would be under water; it is said where there is a will there is a way. A few had lost all their cattle and were on foot. Sink or swim, survive or perish, they must go on.

One morning while the boys (we all go by the name of boys) were yoking up the cattle I started on with my gun, (which is my constant companion) and in about a mile I met a packer coming back very much frightened. He said two Diggers had crossed the trail just above and gone into the willows, and wanted to wait until the train came up. I said, "Show me where they went in, I would try and find them," so we went on to the place where he saw them go in. I hunted high and low but could not find them.

The next night after this I and another young man had the first watch. The night being chilly we built a fire of buffalo chips; we had been talking for some time when I heard a whistle; I looked around and found the cattle gone towards the distant mountains. We both started after them on the double quick; it seemed as though they were drawn by some invisible power, for we could hardly stop them. There was a large bunch of bushes a short distance from where I stopped the cattle, and I went out towards it when up started an Indian and fired three arrows at me; one grazed my shoulder and one went through my pants; I then blazed away at him. He gave a yell and a whoop, and then ran like an antelope over the hills; we did not let the cattle get away so far again that night.

Six days travel brought us to Humboldt Meadow; the grass here is excellent. A fine meadow of some thirty acres, an oasis that is pleasant for the eye to rest upon. Here is the junction of the Applegate route, leading into Shasta, the northern part of California.

Near the source of the Sacramento River we called a council of our company to see whether we would go by the way of Carson and so come into Washington, the middle mines, or take the northern route to Shasta. After much discussion it was decided to take the Applegate trail. From here it is one hundred miles without grass or water, and we now went to cutting grass and curing it for the journey. A train of seven wagons that was going by the way of Carson had a scythe; this we borrowed for one day and we considered ourselves quite fortunate, for to cut so much with knives would have been slow work. In one day we had collected all we thought we should need. We stopped here two days that the cattle might get rested for the perilous march over the desert.

The second day, early in the morning, we bid our friends of the Meadow good-bye and started on, the cattle sinking into the sand six inches, making it very hard travelling. At night we had gone over 16 miles; here we found a very small spring from which we could give the cattle but little water, it running only a pail full in fifteen minutes. We gave the cattle some hay and took a little lunch ourselves and then started on and travelled until midnight, when we came to a boiling spring nearly not enough to cook our coffee. The cattle were almost choked for water; we baled the water out into holes to let it cool, and in about two hours we had as much cooled off as we thought the cattle ought to drink at this time. After we got through we all turned in for a good sleep, there being no fear of Indians, as they could not exist here. When we woke up in the morning the sun was high in the heavens.

We got some breakfast and started on, and late in the afternoon we came to "Rabbit Hole Spring." This hole is about six feet deep, with green brackish water; we were so dry that we took a good drink while we held our breath, but it was horrid stuff. We cleaned the hole out and found six partly decayed rabbits in it. When sufficient water had come in we watered the cattle, gave them a foddering of hay, and as evening set in started on.

We now had forty miles to travel over a salt plain before we could get any water or grass, and for two days we had bad water to drink and we began to feel the effects of it; we wanted to hurry on that we might find something better. All through here the earth has been overturned by volcanic action; the earth is a fire red. Then come long levels, the surface smooth and hard as cement.

At sundown we started on; the night was cool and light enough to travel, and we are obliged to travel in the night on account of salt on the plain; the blistering sun shining on this injures the eyesight. Over this forty miles there is not a bush or a spear of grass, or any living thing. Here lay along the trail whole trains of oxen, wagons and chains, that had perished in 1850. The oxen lay there just as they fell; not a wolf had disturbed them in their solitary sleep; the sun had shrunk them to nearly one half their natural size, and the salt of the plain had preserved them. It was very sad to look upon all this wreck and think how much they must have suffered, and we wondered, too, if there had been any loss of human life as well.

About ten the next morning we came to "Black Rock Boiling Springs;" it is nearly round and about twenty feet across; the water is nearly boiling hot, and it only requires a few moments fire to have it boil. It runs down one hundred yards into holes to receive it, where it is cooled off for the use of the cattle. These springs remind one of the hot place down below where the fire is unquenchable.

A party of the boys went out on a voyage of discovery and in an hour came in and reported grass two miles to the east, and the cattle were then driven up and a party went to cut hay for the next two days travel.

The next day at four in the afternoon we started for "Deep Water Wells," forty-three miles distant. The day before we had lost a number of our cattle and were obliged to throw away everything that was not actually needed; one ox we had left yesterday came up just as we were starting on again; he lay down and went up and looked at him and he tried to get up to go with us, but he had got to the end of his journey and we left him there with the solitude.

The trail during the night was hard and clearly water level, the crust of salt making it equal to moonlight. At sunrise we came to a small knoll of sand where we got some breakfast. We fed the cattle, and then went down (we name the place Hades) to a place a little below the level of the plain. There was a cauldron some thirty feet across and some eight feet in the centre, and the water was boiling up over four feet; it sounded like distant thunder; one would say the fires were not very distant, but the boiling seems to be a great fitful as it would boil higher at times and then go down a little. It seems the trade winds blow here for the border around this cauldron is very green, except on the west side, and there it is kept bare by the steam that arises like a cloud. Some ten rods to the east there was a hole where the fire had sometime been at work; we could look down, down into the undisturbed depth of the earth.

After stopping two hours we proceeded on to the "Wells," which was thirteen miles. The sand being deep we travelled slow, and the day was very warm too. We thought at one time the cattle could not reach it, but after a good deal of urging we arrived about dark. This was an oasis such as we had not seen for many a day. It contained some four acres of nice grass and a little lake of water some thirty feet wide and sixty feet long and over eighty feet deep, according to bubble measure, cold and very clear, but not a fish or a living thing in it. We stopped here two days to recruit the cattle. This is the name the place Hades) to a place a little below the level of the plain. There was a cauldron some thirty feet across and some eight feet in the centre, and the water was boiling up over four feet; it sounded like distant thunder; one would say the fires were not very distant, but the boiling seems to be a great fitful as it would boil higher at times and then go down a little. It seems the trade winds blow here for the border around this cauldron is very green, except on the west side, and there it is kept bare by the steam that arises like a cloud. Some ten rods to the east there was a hole where the fire had sometime been at work; we could look down, down into the undisturbed depth of the earth.

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We travelled up this valley nine miles and camped at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Here is the first wood we had seen for twelve hundred miles. We now had one hundred and fifty miles of dense forest to get through. We are now in that region where there is immense quantity of game, such as antelope, wolves, pointers, cougars, Indians, and any quantity of grizzly bears, besides smaller game. The next morning we commenced the ascent and travelled twelve miles and camped at a small spring. Here we were obliged to leave one of our wagons; the cattle were giving out fast, the desert had tried their endurance exceedingly, and the poor creatures' feet were nearly worn out. We here saw trees of immense height, called the sugar pine. I saw one to-day that would make nearly ten thousand feet of lumber, two hundred feet without a limb—Jim said he knew a man that got water power enough from the sap to saw the tree up; this would be a nice place for a lumber camp of that description; it would be a nice walk for an invalid before breakfast to make the circuit of some of those trees.

[To be continued next week.]

THE TRAINED HORSE.

FROM A DETECTIVE'S PAPERS.

From Clayville to Booneton, in the United States, is about fifteen miles, across a rolling prairie, and the road runs very near east and west. Half way between the two towns the road is touched by a point where a heavy growth of pine trees sweep away to the northward into a dark, dense forest. In the spring of 1842 a man left Clayville in the morning, bound for Booneton. His name was registered at the inn as Richard Bisbee of New York, and he was supposed to have money with him. He left Clayville upon horseback in fine health and spirits, but he was never seen in Boonston. Perhaps he had, unnoticed, gone part of the way, and then returned. At all events he was never heard of more in that district.

About a month after that a man from St. Louis left Booneton for Clayville. He was also on horseback, and started off well and hearty; but he never reported himself at the place of his destination. Within a fortnight after this second disappearance two more travellers were missed. What did it mean? The road between the two towns was direct, and not even a byway was there to lead anyone astray; so that to wander from the true road is impossible. During the month of July three travellers were missed, and the people turned out in a body to search. Of course attention was directed to the wood, and the search was extended for miles and miles, but without success.

On the 4th of August a young man, who gave his name at Clayville as Michael Dupont of New Orleans, left that place for Booneton. He was on horseback, and when he was told of the dangers of the road he only laughed at them. He said he had a good horse and good weapons, and he was not afraid. But Michael Dupont never reached Booneton.

It was on the 19th of August that I arrived at Clayville, and put up at the village inn. I was on the track of two rogues who had robbed the bank in Jackson; and I had not been at the inn an hour before I made myself sure that the men I sought had passed that way only three days before. And then I heard this other story of the travellers who had so mysteriously disappeared from the road that lay before me.

When I had gone some five or six miles the next morning I noticed that my horse began to falter, and in a little while afterwards he came to a walk and seemed to be in great pain. Imagining that he would soon fall I slipped from the saddle and led him out upon the grass at the side of the road. As I stood thus, wondering what in the world I should do, I saw a man coming toward me from the direction of Booneton. He was mounted on a powerful black horse without any saddle, and his only bridle was a bit of rope passed around the animal's nose. He was a simple looking fellow, dressed in an ordinary farming garb, and behind him were what appeared to be some empty bags. As he came near to where I stood I saw him gather his halter as though he meant to put his horse to a run.

'Hello I' I cried. 'Stop a moment.'

The fellow seemed to consider upon it, and finally turned his horse's head towards me and soon discounted by my side.

'I've heer' a good deal 'bout this road,' he said, eyeing me from top to toe, 'and I like to be keerful. Met with a fall, eh, stranger?'

'Not exactly a fall,' I said. 'My horse seems to have given in.'

The fellow walked all around my quivering beast, and when he came back he put his hand upon the animal's throat and gave a sharp punch. The horse started back with a grunt, and directly began to heave and shiver at the mouth.

'You don't belong to these parts, strangeer,' he said, eying me again.

'No,' I told him.

'I thought not,' he added. 'I guess your hoss has been eatin' devil's tail.'

I asked him what that was.

'It's a kind o' pison,' he answered, 'that hosses pick up heresabouts. He'll be well enough by tomorrow or next day, at the farthest.'

'If that's the case,' I said, 'perhaps you'll let me bargain, for yours.'

'I never owned anything yet that I wouldn't sell if a man wanted it more'n I did,' he replied.

'Well,' I said, 'and may I ask what price you set upon your beast?'

'Jest $70.'

I had expected to hear him say a hundred. I took him at his offer in a moment.

The bargain was made; I counted out seven ten dollar pieces, put my saddle and bridle upon the new horse and then mounted.

'Perhaps,' said the fellow, as he gave the sick horse another punch in the gullet, 'if I should see you in Booneton one o' these days ye might like to change back again?'

I told him we'd see about that, and then, bidding him good morning, I started off.

I had certainly got a splendid horse. He stepped as lightly and gracefully as a dancing master, and bore me as easily as though I had been in a carriage. In a little while I touched him with a whip, and he pranced gaily. I patted him on the neck and told him that I liked him. We were now just at the point where the angle of the wood reached the edge of the road, and without apparent cause the horse started into a gallop. I spoke to him and tried to hold him in, but he only went the faster. In a few minutes he wheeled out of the road and struck into the wood, and now he ran for dear life. I yelled with all my might and tugged at the rein till my arms ached, but I could neither turn his head or slacken his speed. He flew on like the wind, selecting his course where the trees were farthest apart—flew on, sweeping now to the right and now to the left, just as the passage through the forest seemed most favorable.

As soon as I found the horse was not to be stopped I turned my attention in another direction, and very quickly it flashed upon me that the flying beast had been trained to just this kind of work. Like horses I had read of in Arabia, he would take his course for his master's habitation, let it be where it would. The man with whom I had traded was one of the gang, and there must have been another at the stable of the inn at Clayville who had given my horse something to make him sick. These thoughts only passed through my mind with lightning like rapidity, but they were systematically arranged as they came, and I knew that I had been trapped, and that the animal was bearing me to the haunts of the robbers. For a moment there was a desire to keep on and meet the rascals, but that would only be madness. I must get off the saddle somehow.

Ha! the opportunity presented itself. Ahead I saw a stream of water. I withdrew my feet from the stirrups and placed my hand upon the pommel. One more leap and the horse's feet touched the pebbly shore. With a sudden spring I lifted myself clear of the saddle, and as the beast flew from beneath me I dropped into the brook without hurt of any kind. As quickly as possible I scrambled up the bank and when I had reached the wood I stopped to consider. The horse had stopped on the opposite side of the stream as though looking for his rider, and for a moment I thought of firing a pistol ball at him. However, I did not waste my powder, and in a little while the animal turned and trotted off and was soon out of sight.

Now, what should I do? Of course I must get out of the wood; and to do that safely I must go back by the way we had come. I looked to my pistols, and started. The sun gave me my direction, so I could make no mistake. By and by I heard the tread of a horse ahead, and as quickly as possible I found shelter behind a huge pine tree. The horse came along within a hundred yards of me. The horseman was my honest countryman who feared I might be a robber, and the horse was the one I had owned an hour before. The animal still foamed at the mouth, but cantered along without apparent trouble. So the 'pison' had not been so very deadly: and, moreover, the punching in the gullet had not been without its effect. Surely the plan had been a cute one, and the game had been adroitly played—only I had chanced to gain one effective play before their game could be finished.

I remained behind the tree until the horseman disappeared, and then moved on again. Had I been nearer the rascal I might have intercepted him, but as it was, the thing could not well be done. I hurried forward with all possible speed, and in a little while after I reached the highway I had the good fortune to be overtaken by a man in a wagon. When I first hailed him he drew a pistol, and seemed disinclined to stop; but in a moment more he recognized me as one whom he had seen on the road beyond Clayville, the day before, and finally pulled up and addressed me. I soon convinced him that I was an honest man, and he took me in. He was bound to Booneton, and was glad that he had found safe company; but I did not tell him what I had discovered. I explained the fact of my being afoot by telling how my horse had failed me by the wayside.

I reached Booneton by the middle of the forenoon, where I found two shrewd intelligent officers, to whom I communicated my secret, and together we laid a plan for finding the robbers. On the following day we disguised ourselves and proceeded to that point in the road where the trained horse had turned off into the wood, but we found nothing. On the next day we went again, and this time we had the good fortune to meet my honest looking, horse trader astride of the very animal that had carried me to the brook. He did not recognize me, and readily stopped when my companions hailed him; and, as may be supposed, we captured him without much trouble. At first he expressed much surprise, but when he came to recognize me he ceased his railings and professed a willingness to go with us where we pleased. We carried him to Booneton, and while the officers were taking him into the tavern, I took good care that his horse was safely housed in the stable. The fellow gave his name as Mark Sackett, and swore that he knew nothing of any robbers or anything of that kind, and touching the affairs of the horse, he declared that was something that he could not explain. He said that he saw me when I was carrying the goods, and as the horse had left with him began to revive, he had mounted and followed me. Beyond this we could get nothing from him.

But I had an idea of my own. I believed that if there was a haunt of robbers anywhere in the wood, the prisoner's horse would take us there, and when I gave my opinion to the officers, they jumped at the conclusion. It was now only an hour past noon, and in less than an hour we had twenty men, well mounted and well armed, ready to follow us. The black horse was led out, saddled and bridled, and I took my seat upon his back, and he behaved well as he started off. In fact, he seemed to like the company of the other horses, and to be proud of leading them. When we reached the wood I gave him the rein, and he turned off just where he had turned with me before, but he did not dash away this time as he had done on that former occasion. Being in the company of steady horses seemed to only laughed at them. He said he had a only bespoke pioneer should.

On by the very path I had been before—across the brook where I had made my leap—and then away through the dark deep wood beyond. By and by we came to another stream, upon the opposite side of which rose a high, perpendicular bluff, and it appeared to us that there could not possibly be any passage that way. But the black horse pushed into the stream, and when we reached the other side he walked down a few rods in the shallow water, and then turning to the right, he entered a narrow pass which had been before invisible.

A little way through this curious passage we came into a deep, circular basin or hollow, walled in upon all sides by an almost perpendicular bank, and here, sitting before some small fires, we found six men. They started up when they saw us, but as our pistols were quickly out they did not offer resistance. One of them, however, made a dash towards a point in the wall directly behind my two companions, but he was quickly stopped, and as my eyes followed the course he had taken, I discovered an open place in the face of the bluff, like the mouth of a cavern.

I need not tell you how we overcame the villains, nor need I transcribe the thousand and one wicked things they said. Suffice it for me to tell that we secured them, and that we then examined the opening in the bank which I had discovered. It proved, as I had suspected, to be the mouth of a large cavern, within which we found plenty of arms and ammunition, and also many valuables which had been taken from murdered travellers. The whole thing had happened very fortunately for us. Had the robbers been in the cave when we entered the basin, or had they been in possession of their arms, we might have had some hot work, for they were desperate characters; but we fairly caught them napping.

And one thing more: I discovered my two bank robbers in the party.

We returned to Booneton, and after the rascals had been lodged in jail, the one whom we had overtaken the road, and with whom I had changed horses, turned State's evidence; and his story was just about what I had expected. He said that the gang had been together for several years, operating in different parts of the country. The horse had been trained by one of their number, who had been an old circus performer, and had been taught, when sent away from home without any breakfast, to dash off with the victim as he had done with me. This was done to avoid any bloody scenes near the highway. But the victim was not always taken to their cavernous retreat. When a prize was expected, some of the gang stationed themselves along in the wood between the two streams, ready to stop the horse, and dispatch the entrapped traveller; but I was assured that, if I had been taken across the first brook, I should have met my death very quickly afterwards. They had no accomplice at the inn. When a traveller was spotted either at Clayville or at Booneton, one of their number was sent to look out for said traveller's horse, who by careful management, had little difficulty in administering a sickening dose to the animal.

The rascals were tried, condemned and executed, and I retained possession of the trained horse. He lived to keep him long. One bright morning I missed him from the stable, and all search for him was in vain. It is possible that the intelligent brute unfastened his own halter strap and ran away, but I have chosen to give the matter a different solution. I believe he was stolen by the honest looking countryman in whose hands I first found him, and who was set at liberty on account of turning State's evidence.—[Selected.

RATTLESNAKES.

The special peculiarity of the group of American venomous serpents called rattlesnakes is that they make a sharp rattling noise by vibration of the tail. Hence the family name is Crotalidæ, from *crotalia*, jingling earings of pearls worn by the Roman girls, or *crotalum*, a castanet. The fat bodied, sluggish, terrestrial serpents bear their castanets at the extremity of the tail, in the shape of a varying number of hollow, flattened and somewhat rounded segments, terminating in one of a more globular form called "the button." These are hinged loosely together, giving them considerable play, and the number of pieces, as well as their shape, varies greatly in different snakes and at different ages; while two species—the copperhead and the massassauga—have none at all, but can boast only a horny tip to their tails. There are records of forty four, thirty two and twenty one rattles; but twelve to fourteen is the usual number in full grown crotali of the larger sized species. They show no accurate index of age, notwithstanding that the contrary has been so long the popular belief. But though it is possible that, by playing upon the curiosity or even by deceiving through mimicry, the crepitating tail might now and then become useful, we do not think that as an aid in food getting it is ever of more than accidental service. As a matter of sober fact, the rattle is not heard when the crotalus is seeking its prey, which is procured by stealthy crawling and by lying ambushed, patient and rigid, in the accustomed haunts of small animals until chance favors. That the rattling of the crotali answers the purpose of a call we know from the fact (recorded in many places) that other rattlesnakes quickly respond and hasten toward the one ringing the alarm. Moreover, in the latter part of the summer the snakes sometimes make the sound loudly and long when they have no apparent reason to be alarmed, but, by the argument from analogy, can reasonably be supposed to be calling the opposite sex. That the rattling of one serpent in captivity has an immediate effect upon other crotali within hearing is constantly observed, and in the many cases where the young have been seen to run into the mouth of the old one for protection, they appear to have been summoned and informed of their danger by this signal. The instant the snake suspects danger it throws itself into the coil of vantage and sounds its long roll, varying the swiftness of the vibration and the consequent loudness of its note as its apprehensions increase or diminish.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

THE "GOVERNOR" AND THE "JUDGE."

—OR—

HOW IT HAPPENED.

"Many a true word spoken in jest."

BY A. B. BERRY,

Author of "Wolf Lodge or Orson Hut," "Flint Hill Farm," etc., etc., etc.

[Continued from last week.]

CHAPTER VI.

We will let fifteen or twenty years pass unnoticed by, during which both those we began with as young men are getting into mature life. Nelson Badger has prospered "in basket and in store" and around his table the olive plants of the blessed promise have multiplied into seven, three girls and four boys, and a more lovely and well ordered household the land did not possess. And the flattering prospect of the father's becoming Governor Badger, as the result of the coming election, added no particular amount of happiness to the household. To be sure it was gratifying to be held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He had not sought the office but the office sought him.

So far as we are aware during all this time, the two college chums and classmates had not met after leaving college. Their homes were in different States. For a year or two after graduating, they occasionally corresponded, but even this at last fell away and years passed without either knowing the fate of the other. There was little in common between them, though while associated in college, they were friends and agreeable associates. Of course when the name of Nelson Badger was put in nomination for Governor of his State, this became matter of general notoriety, and when he was elected Chief Justice Flint wrote him a congratulatory letter. The answer to it was accompanied with an earnest invitation to the Judge to come with his wife and family, and partake of a Thanksgiving dinner with the Governor. This was accepted, and at noon on that day the two old college chums met and looked into each other's face and each presented the jewels of his homestead, wife and children, or in the judge's case, only wife and child, that wayward son.

What a contrast those two men presented. Surely 'the boy is father to the man, and the young man to the old man. The judge and his wife were delighted with the household of the Governor.

'Such a lady as the Governor's wife is!' said Mrs. Flint to her husband when alone; 'I wonder where she could have been brought up. I don't believe it was in this country. I guess she must be an English lady.'

And did ever anybody see such a household of children, bright as dollars, and ladies and gentlemen every one,' said the Judge. 'There, Joel Parker, is company for you, worthy of you.'

'Well, father, how long do you think I should want to stay up here among sheep and cattle for the sake of good company?' said the hopeful son.

'It's all very well to look at for a day or two, but as Joel Parker says, you'd find there is no more heaven here than in some other places,' said Mrs. Judge.

The Chief Justice said no more. In court he might have the last word, but never in his own house.

'You don't say you are older than Judge Flint,' said Mrs. Badger to her husband after the Judge and wife had retired to their room. 'Why he is grey and looks twenty years older than you do.'

'Do you know the reason? I can tell you, wife. The Judge hasn't such a wife as his old chum has, or he never would wear that careworn, uncheerful visage. She was a Chief Justice's daughter, which was probably unfortunate, and his too. Wilson Flint left college with his heart set on becoming a judge and he has attained his purpose. Perhaps he has his reward. I certainly am content with mine. He laughed at my idea of being a farmer; I wonder what he thinks of it now.'

The Judge remained a day or two with the Governor, and the two talked over the scenes of other days. Their wives also talked of their early hours, of their husbands and their household affairs, and the young folks walked and rode and talked together, but there were few things Joel Parker liked so much as to converse on the greatness of his father and grandfather, and the wonders of the theatre and other places of amusement. He started out with Joe and Rob, the Governor's two oldest boys, to go hunting and nutting in the woods, but he soon tired of that and seating himself on a stone before they had gone a mile, said that was enough of that. If they called that fun, he'd like to have them see the kind of fun he had at boss.

But Joe and Rob were not as much strangers to city sights as Joel Parker might think. Every winter their father and mother spent some weeks in Boston or New York and always had some of the older children along with them, desirous of being attracted to city life, they were always glad to get back to their own home.

CHAPTER VII.

Gov. Badger, as we must now call him, was still a young man, being but about forty years old. His elevation to office in no way interfered with his farming operations, or in the least diverted his mind from what seemed to be the accepted mission of his life, which was to illustrate the nobility of farming as a business, and its true position among the enterprises of life. True he had some capital, but not an independent fortune to begin with, as some think a farmer must have, but he had brought to the business a large and cultivated mind and an enthusiasm for the calling. He just made thorough work of it. The acres that had been but scratched over or but half cultivated, he gave a deep and thorough stirring. Beneath the old worn out farm he found a fresh new one, which he brought up to the air and sunlight.

Acres which his predecessors had thought too stony or rocky to be cultivated, he had made his most productive fields, and pastures that were rusted over with moss or given up to briars, brambles and brakes, became under his system of farming, rich and productive. He often made his fields gravelling lands and his pastures fields to the advantage of both.

Under his system of farming the work was mostly done by the outdoor help, and not by the indoor help or women, as is too often the case under the old fashioned plan of management. As he gave his attention mostly to sheep husbandry, the dairy consisted of but two cows, and the only thing the indoor help had to do with that was to skim the milk. The Governor convinced his neighbors that there were at least two crops that were profitable for a New England farmer to raise, one was corn, the other beans. He raised from a dozen to twenty acres of corn often, and five or six acres of baking beans. The fodder from the latter was always devoured eagerly by his sheep. In addition to these the cart loads of flat and rutabaga turnips he stored every fall were a perfect wonder to his neighbors, and they always came out fresh and solid as when put in. The secret of it was, they were not piled up in house or barn cellar, but put in pits prepared in the ground, five or six cart loads in a pit. These were opened, one at a time as required during the winter, and fed out to the sheep a certain quantity to each flock every day.

By degrees he entered upon another practice. He had a piece of corn of but two or three acres, on a slope which had been seldom cultivated, on account of its being very dry in a dry season, and ruining the crops planted on it. The beginning of the season had given promise of being a fertile one, but by the middle of July a severe drouth came on, and the corn on that piece, had taken a fine start, but now was in danger of being ruined by the drouth. The Governor therefore set his wits to work to save it. The surface soil had been frequently stirred, which had kept it along for a week or more, after some of his neighbor's corn had dried and rotted to a hopeless degree.

Some rods below the edge of the corn ran the brook, and as this was the year after the purchase of the farm steamer it occurred to him to try irrigation. Now this is a practice which some men think simple enough, but irrigation proper consists in something more than merely sprinkling the surface over for an hour or two. This the Governor had read enough upon the subject to know. What he did do was to cause a trench a foot deep or more, dug along the upper side of the piece. Then he set the steamer at work pumping water from the brook in a hose to fill the trench. From this, little channels were opened down through, and along all the roads in the course of a few days, which was fine fun for the boys, and younger girls too, for they were not confined indoors to be bleached out in the shade, but were allowed the invigorating influence of the sunshine in the open air as freely as the boys. In this way that piece of corn was saved with little labor and expense, and at harvest it was a bountiful yield.

From this time forth there was no fear of droughts on the Badger Farm.

That steamer was found a profitable investment and useful in many ways, and once in particular in this dry season. One of his neighbors set some bushes and rubbish on fire and before he was aware of it, it got the upper hands of him and was running in all directions. The Governor had his steamer up pumping water for irrigation, when his neighbor who lived half a mile away sent out the cry of fire! fire! through the neighborhood. In a shorter time than it takes to write it, the steamer was released from this station, the hose and pump thrown on board, the power applied to the drawing gear, and sent with all speed to the scene of threatened disaster. This neighbor fortunately lived farther down on the same brook that runs past the Badger farm. It was but a few minutes to arrive at the fire, and a timely stream thrown upon the fire just before it reached the farm buildings, and saving some shrubbery and several rods of picket fence, little damage was done. And the traction steamer or farm locomotive was voted by all the neighborhood to be a valuable investment.

Here we take leave of our farmer Governor and his charming family.

THE END.

DIGNITY OF LOWLY WORK.

"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?" —St. Mark.

A lesson, Lord, those eighteen years to me;
Not elsewhere I could so divinely learn
That humble tasks are best, how'er I yearn
For higher sphere where I may work more free.
Blest were those patient toiling years to Thee,
Their secret kept within Thy lonely heart.
While Thou wast trained by daily skill of art
To build new world for human destiny.
Thy Future was the *Now*. 'Twas from its height
Thine eye read meanings in the passing day.
If cross of Death cast shadows on Thy way,
What sun was that so darkened in his light?
O Nazarene, out of these toils there came
That which we prize most dear—a Brother's name.
—[Harper's Monthly.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

BY HENRY CABOT LODGE.

Seward was a favorite of fortune. He was fortunate in his gifts, his surroundings, his successes, his career, his temperament, his friendships. He was peculiarly blessed in the last respect by having as a lifelong friend Thurlow Weed, one of the most astute and powerful politicians we have ever produced, who relieved Seward of many of the burdens of politics, and left him free to work out the principles they both had at heart. It was a rare chance which gave Seward such a friend, and he made the most of it, as he did of all his opportunities, after the fashion of successful people. Very few men have made themselves count for more than Seward, in proportion to their ability. This arose from his wonderful capacity for dealing with his fellow men, from his robust common sense, and from his cautious firmness. The qualities, however, which made him great were his wisdom and his courage, and on these his place in history will rest. Apart from the military leaders, the great figure of the civil war is that of Abraham Lincoln. He will always stand preeminent, not only by his wisdom and his moral greatness, but by his hold upon the popular affection. He appealed to the hearts of the people both in his life and in his death. They loved him, because in him they saw a true and profoundly sympathetic representative of all that was best in themselves, and because he personified as no other man did the infinite pathos of the war. The among the statesmen who followed and sustained Lincoln, Seward will occupy the foremost place. The memory of the adroit politician may perish, but that of the broad minded statesman will endure. The subtleties of his arguments will fade, but his presentation of great principles will ever grow brighter, but the man who first appealed to the 'higher law' and who first described the 'irrepressible conflict' will always be honored and remembered. We may read the epitaph which Seward chose for himself in the simple inscription on the tomb at Auburn, 'He was faithful;' and with this praise he was content. But history will also record and give high place to the calm wisdom, the loyal courage, and the undaunted spirit with which he defended the cause of freedom in a slave holding Senate, and stood by the side of Lincoln through all the trials and perils of four years of civil war.—[Atlantic.

PREVENTION OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Recent outbreaks of hydrophobia, direct attention to this terrible complaint, for which at present time there is no certain remedy. A plan for the prevention, or, at least, mitigation of the disease, was introduced and put into practice some 20 years ago by M. Bourrel, of Paris, and this plan has since been reported favorably upon by Mr. Fleming, the eminent president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, in his work on "Rabies and hydrophobia," p. 360 61. Bourrel's method, which has been successfully practised, consists of blunting the canine teeth and incisors of young dogs. This operation renders it impossible for a dog to inflict wounds on men or animals which might lead to inoculation with the virus of rabies. The treatment imposes no restraint upon the animal. "Bourrel's proposal," said Mr. Fleming, "has never been carried into general practice as far as I know, but it will be seen that it is by no means an unreasonable one; and in countries where dogs are particularly susceptible to rabies, or during an epizooty of the disease, it might, and, indeed, must prove of the greatest utility. Even in ordinary circumstances, with vicious dogs, it would be most injudicious not to resort to it to prevent their doing mischief.

Bourrel's experiments in this direction commenced in 1862, and were conducted on 30 dogs. When the permanent teeth are well grown he states that the dog may be so disarmed. The operation occupies about eight minutes. There is no subsequent derangment of health, and the creature eats as well as before. The teeth are no more exposed to caries than they were previously; the lips conceal them, except in aggression or defence, and the beauty of the dog is not impaired. "In general," says M. Bourrel, "not a sharp pinching produced by the front teeth that causes inflammation; the skin is torn, or the bite draws blood. By blunting, or resection, 16 obtuse surfaces are substituted for